FRIDAY
April 28, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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HEARING CONTINUES

Will push govt. to help same-sex couples: SC

NEWS » PAGE 13

TREK GOES AWRY

Recounting a miraculous escape

NEWS » PAGE 13

OPERATION KAVERI

246 evacuated Indians arrive in Mumbai

NEWS » PAGE 12

PARLEY

Should India phase out nuclear power?

A mix of sources will decide the way ahead

OPINION » PAGE 11

FACILE WIN

Royals get the better of CSK, go top of table

SPORTS » PAGE 17

Workers filling up the crater at the blast site on Aranpur-Jagargunda road in Dantewada district, Chhattisgarh. SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR

IED planted a day or two before: police

Shubhomoy Sikdar
DANTEWADA

Even as a probe is on into the Dantewada Maoist attack that left 11 persons, including 10 security personnel, dead on Wednesday, investigators suspect that the improvised explosive device (IED) used to blow up the police vehicle was planted a day or two before the incident.

Inspector-General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P. told journalists on Thursday that *prima facie* it appeared that a tunnel was dug underneath the road to plant the explosives. He was responding to a question on whether the IED was planted under the Aranpur-Jagargunda road where the incident took place.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
EDITORIAL
» PAGE 10

Congress says one more amid Modi pushback

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday morning mocked Congress's "guarantees" (poll promises) ahead of the Assembly elections as "revdi culture", the grand old party in the evening announced its fifth in a series of promises: free travel in public transport buses for women.

Speaking to about 67 party workers in Karnataka in virtual mode, Mr. Modi asked, "The warranty period of Congress is already over, what guarantee will it give?"

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi announced in the evening in Mangaluru the party's fifth "guarantee", saying that the promises were well thought out.

DETAILED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 8

Ties depend on peace on border: Rajnath to China

Violation of existing agreements has eroded the entire basis of bilateral relations, says Defence Minister during China's first high-level military visit since the Ladakh stand-off began in 2020

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The violation of existing agreements has eroded the entire basis of bilateral relations, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told his Chinese counterpart General Li Shangfu on Thursday, adding that the development of India-China ties is premised on the prevalence of peace and tranquillity at the borders.

This is the first high-level military visit from China since the start of the Ladakh stand-off in April 2020.

Just five days before the bilateral discussions, the two countries held the 18th round of Corps Commander talks as part of continuing dialogue to resolve the stand-off. Those talks remained inconclusive, with both sides agreeing that restoring peace along the border areas would "enable progress" in recently strained relations.

Consensus bid: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his Chinese counterpart General Li Shangfu and officials in New Delhi. REUTERS

"The two Ministers had frank discussions about the developments in the border areas as well as bilateral relations," a Defence Ministry statement said. "He reiterated that violation of existing agreements has eroded the entire basis of bilateral relations."

All issues on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) need to be resolved in accordance with existing bilateral agreements and commitments, Mr. Singh said.

Defence sources said Mr. Singh categorically said military cooperation between the two countries can progress "only" if peace and tranquillity is established on the border. "He said, after disengagement, there should be movement towards de-escalation, and expressed hope for a positive response," a source stated.

The Chinese Minister and State Councillor is in New Delhi to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting scheduled for Friday.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

NEARBY

Kharge likens Modi to snake, then clarifies

HUBBALLI
AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge likened Prime Minister Narendra Modi to a snake at an election rally in Gadag district on Thursday but clarified later in the day that his words were aimed at the BJP and not Mr. Modi. » Page 3

JD(S) releases manifesto

BENGALURU
The Janata Dal (Secular) released its election manifesto on Thursday, and it is the first among the main political parties to do so. » Page 8

METROPLUS » PAGES 6 & 7

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Fresh judge appointments made in four High Courts

13 Eleven judicial officers and two advocates were elevated as additional judges and judges, respectively, in High Courts of New Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand, according to Law Minister Kiren Rijiju. Additional judges are appointed for a period of two years. PTI

Boosting FM radio connectivity with new radio transmitters

91 transmitters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to inaugurate FM transmitters in 84 districts spread across 18 States and two Union Territories. The expansion takes place two days before the landmark 100th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', the Prime Minister's monthly radio programme. PTI

Farmers seek proper land acquisition compensation

15,000 farmers. Under the aegis of the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS), farmers set out on a foot march from Ahmednagar to press for their demands like adequate compensation for land acquisition and remunerative prices for milk and crops. PTI

Drastic fall in COVID-related deaths, says WHO

95 In percentage. The World Health Organization (WHO) warned that though the fatalities due to the disease have seen a drop, COVID-19 was here to stay and countries should learn how to manage its ongoing non-emergency effects, including post-COVID-19 condition. AFP

Combat vehicles sent to Ukraine by the NATO countries

1,550 NATO allies have delivered more than 98% of the combat vehicles promised to Ukraine. Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary-General, NATO, said that the allies have also trained more than nine new Ukrainian brigades. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The threat of rising sea levels

What is the rate at which sea levels are rising? What are the reasons behind the accelerated sea-level rise? What does the report by the World Meteorological Organisation show? What problems can be caused by rising sea levels?

EXPLAINER

Sayantan Datta

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has found in a new report that the world's sea level is rising at an unprecedented rate, portending potentially disastrous consequences for the weather, agriculture, the extant groundwater crisis, and social disparities.

The report, entitled 'State of the Global Climate 2022', was published last week. Along with accelerating sea-level rise, it focused on a consistent rise in global temperatures, record-breaking increases in the concentration of greenhouse gases as well as glacier loss, sustained drought-like conditions in East Africa, record rainfall in Pakistan, and unprecedented heatwaves that struck Europe and China in 2022.

A release said "droughts, floods and heatwaves affected communities on every continent and cost many billions of dollars. Antarctic sea ice fell to its lowest extent on record and the melting of some European glaciers was, literally, off the charts."

While the sea-level rise is one of several compounding disasters, it also merits individual attention for the unique crises it can precipitate, especially for coastal areas, the communities there that depend on life in the sea, and its ability to render the loss of land.

How much is the sea rising?

The press release said, "The rate of global mean sea-level [GSML] rise has doubled between the first decade of the satellite record and the last."

Since the 1990s, scientists have been measuring sea-level rise using satellite altimeters. These instruments send radar pulses to the sea surface and measure the time they take to get back and the change in their intensity. The higher the sea level, the faster and stronger the return signal.

Researchers are able to determine GSML by collecting this data from different points on earth and calculating the average. To calculate the rate of change in the GSML – i.e. how fast or slow the sea level is changing – we can calculate the difference in the GSML across a few years, usually a decade, and then divide the difference by the number of years. This provides an estimate of the rate of sea-level change.

According to the WMO report, the sea level has been rising in the three decades for which satellite altimeter data is available (1993-2022). But, while the rate of sea-level rise was 2.27 mm/year in 1993-2002, it shot up to 4.62 mm/year in 2013-2022.

What causes accelerated sea-level rise?

The WMO report points to the following factors as being responsible for a rising GSML: "ocean warming, ice loss from glaciers and ice sheets, and changes in land water storage".

The report also quantifies the individual contribution of these factors to yield, what researchers call the "GSML budget".

According to the report, in 2005-2019, loss of glaciers and ice sheets contributed 36% to the GSML rise. Ocean warming – the phenomenon of rising mean ocean temperatures – contributed 55%, and changes in the storage of land water contributed less than 10%.

As increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases drive global warming, 90% of the 'extra' heat is stored in the oceans. This leads to ocean warming. And as the ocean heats up, it undergoes thermal expansion, which in turn leads to a rise in the GSML. One measure of ocean warming is the ocean heat content (OHC).

As per the report, OHC measures in 2022 touched a new record.

The report also says that the earth's ice cover, known as the cryosphere, has thinned. The cryosphere includes the Arctic and Antarctic regions (called "sea ice"), glaciers, the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica (area of ice on land covering more than 50,000 km^2), seasonal snow cover, and permafrost (mass of land that remains below 0 degree Celsius for at least two straight years).

What do the report's findings mean?

Nehru Prabakaran, a scientist at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, who works on the effect of sea-level change on coastal ecosystems, told *The Hindu* that the WMO report confirms trends that are already well-known.

"They have used more or less the best possible data," he said.

Raj Bhagat Palanichamy, a senior programme manager with WRI-India and an expert on the use of geoanalytics for urban development and transport, added that "the findings of the report are consistent with observations made by others and predictions from climate models."

Both Dr. Prabakaran and Mr. Palanichamy told *The Hindu* that given the GSML is expected to continue rising, the accelerating pace is particularly worrisome.

What problems will sea-level rise cause?

One, Mr. Palanichamy said, is that the accelerated pace will cause changes in land cover, i.e., "what will be land and what will be sea", in the future.

Dr. Prabakaran added that as rising seas swallow more of the land cover, particularly in coastal areas, coastal communities will face an "acute shortage of land for human use".

This land crunch, according to Dr. Prabakaran, will mean that those who are better off will be able to cope better than marginalised groups, leading to an increase in social disparities between people living in coastal areas.

Second, weather formations such as cyclones are known to typically originate in the open seas. As the GSML continues to rise, along with a rise in ocean temperatures, the chances of cyclones could increase, affecting coastal communities and leading to large economic liabilities for tropical countries such as India and South Africa, which have high population densities.

Besides this, the WMO report says that South Africa was affected by five cyclones in over two months in 2022, leading to the displacement of "hundreds of thousands of people".

Third, Mr. Palanichamy said that as the GSML continues to rise, more sea water could seep into the ground, leading to the groundwater – which is usually freshwater – turning more and more saline.

This, in turn, can exacerbate water crises in coastal areas as well as agriculture in adjacent regions.

How will sea-level rise affect societies?

Dr. Prabakaran said that coastal ecosystems could be "completely changed".

For example, he said that in the Sundarbans delta in West Bengal, the world's largest mangrove area, rising sea levels and coastal erosion, due to loss of land and sediment from coastal areas, has left more islands submerged under water, and that, in turn, has forced members of local communities to migrate.

Since the lives of coastal communities, including their economic activities, is tied intricately with the coastal ecosystem, changes in the coastal ecosystem as a result of GSML rise – especially when it happens faster than rehabilitative policies and laws can catch up – will further endanger the socio-economic stability of these communities.

Indeed, a combination of these forces having increased child trafficking in the Sundarbans area has already been documented.

Thus, for Dr. Prabakaran, it is crucial that reports such as the WMO's 'State of the Global Climate 2022' continue to generate and accumulate data on climate change.

"I hope it presses for global and local policy-level changes related to climate change," he told *The Hindu*.

Sayantan Datta works with the feminist multimedia science collective, TheLifeofScience.com

Rising sea level causing land erosion on Mousuni island in West Bengal. SUPRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

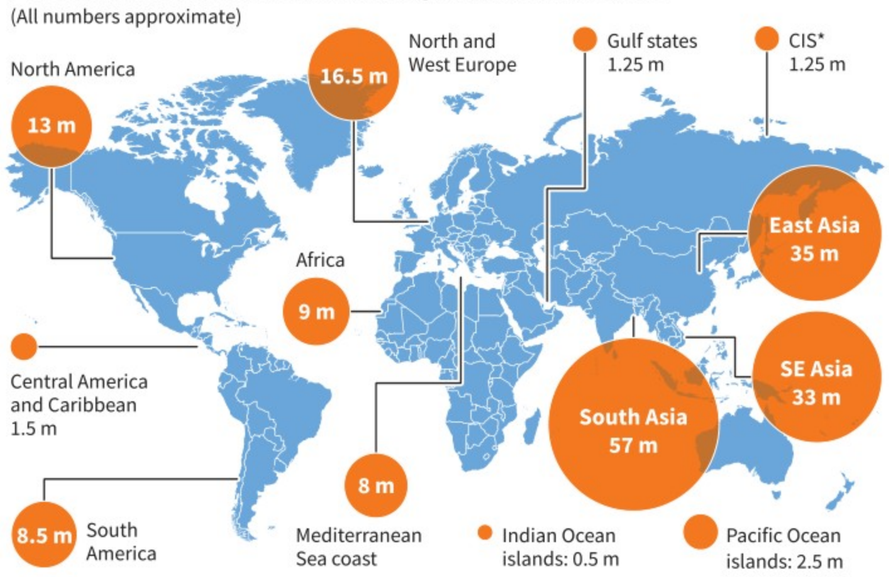
THE GIST

- The WMO has found in a new report that the world's sea level is rising at an unprecedented rate, portending potentially disastrous consequences for the weather, agriculture, the extant groundwater crisis, and social disparities.
- The sea level has been rising in the three decades for which satellite altimeter data is available (1993-2022). But, while the rate of sea-level rise was 2.27 mm/year in 1993-2002, it shot up to 4.62 mm/year in 2013-2022.
- Since the lives of coastal communities, including their economic activities, is tied intricately with the coastal ecosystem, changes in the coastal ecosystem as a result of GSML rise will further endanger the socio-economic stability of these communities.

Sea level rise could hit two metres by 2100

Global sea levels could rise by more than two metres by the end of the century – resulting in the displacement of almost 200 million people – if global warming continues at its current rate, new research suggests

POPULATION DISPLACED BY 2100: Assuming two-metre rise in sea level
(All numbers approximate)



*Commonwealth of Independent States

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

If global temperature increase stays below 2 degree Celsius (target set by Paris Climate Agreement) On average, melting ice sheets would contribute estimated 26 cm to sea level rise by 2100

Worst-case scenario: 5% chance that contribution could be as much as 80 cm. Rise could exceed 1 m if other factors – melting glaciers and expansion of ocean water as it warms – are taken into account

If global temperatures increase by 5 degree Celsius (where current trajectory for economic growth continues) On average, melting ice sheets would contribute estimated 51 cm to sea level rise by 2100

Worst-case scenario: 5% chance that global sea level rise could exceed 2 m – flooding up to 1.8 million sq km (1.2 % of global land area) and displacing as many as 187 million people

Sources: The Conversation, The Royal Society

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I RAJKUMAR R/at 122, Bang–72 have changed my name from MUNIRAJA H G to RAJKUMAR for all future purposes by affidavit dated 26–04–2023, Notary Seshagiri

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, REZA Khat Froudineh S/o Morteza Froudineh residing at No.07, Gangamma Temple Road, Kariyannapalya, Bengaluru -560084 Karnataka have changed my name to Reza Froudineh vide affidavit dated 27-04-2023 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O.S. NO. 26914/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
And
Sri. Vinod Kumar
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri. Vinod Kumar,
S/o Sri. Krishnan, Aged about 37 years, No. 60, Pipeline Road, Vinayakapura, Yeshwanthpura,
Bangalore - 560 022

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 3,83,890/- (Rupees Three Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 57th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-58) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 16/06/2023 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 01st April, 2023,

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYOHALL UNIT, BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 13th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-22)
O.S. NO. 25228/2023

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its branch office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
And
Yashas Hosur Sridharan
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Yashas Hosur Sridharan,
S/o. Sri. Hosur Rangaswamy Iyengar, Aged about 38 years, No.146, 3rd Floor, 3rd Cross, Riranganagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore- 560 085

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 6,04,770/- (Rupees Six Lakh Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 13th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH - 22) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **01-07-2023** at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 19th day of April, 2023.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT, DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYOHALL UNIT, BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O.S. NO. 25360/2022

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
V/s.
Ms. Stefi D' Souza
...Defendant

Summons to Defendant

Ms. Stefi D' Souza,
D/o. Mr. Kenneth D' Souza,
Aged About 29 Years,
No. 167/1, Kavitha Nilayam,
3rd Cross, 5th Main,
BSV Reddy Layout,
Ramamurthy Nagar,
Bangalore- 560016.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,28,594.40/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Four and Paise Forty Only)** apart from future interest of 9.25% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25360/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-58,** Before 57th Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 27th day of June, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the 18th day of April, 2023.

By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560 001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 28th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-29)
O.S. NO. 26777/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Land Mark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
And
Sri. Devaraju Kempanna
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri. Devaraju Kempanna
S/o Sri. Kempanna Rangaiah, Aged about 41 years,
No.16, MIG 1st Main,
1st Stage, KHB Colony,
Basaveshwaranagar,
Bangalore- 560 079

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 4,61,540/- (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty One Thousand Five Hundred Forty Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 28th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH- 29) in person or through, a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 25/05/2023 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 20.04. 2023,

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYOHALL UNIT, BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF XXVI ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-20)
O.S. NO. 25272/2022
Hg : 17/06/2023

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited
having its Registered Office a ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390 007 And its branch office at Mythri Center, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560 068 ...Plaintiff
And
Fazal Baig ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Fazal Baig,
Aged about 39 years, S/o: Gafur Baig, R/a 2, 8th Cross, Shamannanagar, Pipeline Road, Government Electric Factory, Near Masjid E Bilal, Bangalore- 560026

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs.14,36,153.03/- (as on 27/10/2021) along with interest at 24% p.a and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the XXVI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH- 20] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 17/06/2023 at 11:00 A.M take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Giyen under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 21st day of April, 2023

Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No. 109, Commerce House, 9/1, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-560052

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF XXVIII ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE (CCH-29)
O.S. NO. 25744/2021
Hg. 27/06/2023

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited
having its Registered Office a ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390 007 And its Branch office at Mythri Center, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560 068 ...Plaintiff
And
Sai Arjun K.S. ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS

To,
Sai Arjun K.S.
Aged about 32 years, S/o. Shivakumar, R/a Samruddi Comforts, Flat No. 502, 5th Floor, No. A6, at Sector 5, Green Village Layout, Junnasandra Village, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore- 560035

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs.5,73,579.62/- (as on 08/03/2021) along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the XXVIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH- 29] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 27/06/2023 at 11:00 A.M take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Giyen under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 20th day of April, 2023.

Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No. 109, Commerce House, 9/1, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-560052

ASTROLOGY

RUDRAKSH REMEDY (since1518): Kundli, Job, Vastu, Luv, Grah. 40 yrs exp Global Astro- 9896304000

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMMED Ubaada Abdullah S/o Mohammed Shafeeq Ahmed residing at No.23, Kanda Swamy Mudaliar Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005 Karnataka have changed my name to Mohammed Ubada Abdullah vide affidavit dated 27-04-2023 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

I, Santha Kumari Bhagavatheeswaran wife of Bhagavatheesvaran Sankara Subramania Iyer, R/o. F-202, Block-D, 3rd Floor, Aavaasa Apt, 2nd Main, 3rd Cross, Vasanthvalabh Nagar, 8 Phase Bangalore-78, have changed my name as Santhakumari Bhagavatheesvaran, vide affidavit dated 20/04/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 26th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-20)
O.S. NO. 25775/2021

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
And
R. Surendra ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri. R. Surendra,
S/o Sri. Chinnappa Rapoori, Aged about 30 years,
No. 54, Venkataswamkmi Compound, 2nd A Cross, Devasandra Main Road,
KR Puram, Bangalore- 560 036

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 6,70,621/- (Rupees Six Lakh Seventy Thousand Six Hundred Twenty One Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to th appear before the Hon'ble 26th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-20) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 28th June, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 20.04.2023

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYOHALL UNIT, BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No.1 0, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O.S. NO. 25337/2022

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G. ...PLAINTIFF
And
Mr. Murali. V ...DEFENDANT

Summons to Defendant

Mr. Murali. V
S/o Mr. Byreddy
Aged About 33 Years,
No. 205, 3rd Main, 4th Cross, 39, 157, 4th A Cross,
KEB Road, Ittamadu,
Bangalore-560085.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,28,997.37 (Rupees Five Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Seven and Paise Thirty Seven Only)** apart from future interest of 12.85% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25337/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-58,** Before 57th Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 27th day of June, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court this the 18th day of April, 2023.

By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560 001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH- 20)
O.S. NO. 25835/2021

BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G, Aged about 46 years, S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa ...PLAINTIFF
And
1. Mr. LAXMAN CHOUDARYA S/o. Gheesaran Choudarya 23/1, Chitra Meadows Layout Mylasandra, Begur HP Petrol Pump, Bengaluru- 560068
2. Mr. PRAKASH KUMAR GHISARAM,
S/o. Gheesaran Choudarya 23/1, Chitra Meadows Layout Mylasandra, Begur HP Petrol Pump, Bengaluru- 560068
...DEFENDANTS

Summons To Defendant

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 7,56,506.64/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred Six and paisa Sixty Four Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in **O.S. NO. 25835/2021** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH- 20,** Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 28th day of June 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the 20th day of April, 2023.

By Order of the Court Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru- 560005

FX & CO., ADVOCATES New No. 09, Old No. 11/1, Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 001

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRIYA Surinarayanan, W/O. Pulkit Singhal, R/O.F.No 6143, Prestige Shantiniketan, Itpl Rd,Whitefield, Blr–48, have changed name to Priya Surianarayan vide afdvt dtd 25/04/23

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XLII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-43) ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 692 OF 2021

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
a body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act 1949 having Registered Office at : "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007. And having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 04/10, 1st Floor Mittal Tower, Bommanahalli - 560 068 and represented by its POA holder and Collection Manager Mr. Pramodh G, S/o Gurumallappa, Age 45 Years
...PLAINTIFF

AND
Mrs. V. S. Mamatha and another ...DEFENDANT

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publiction

To,
Defendant : 1
Mrs. V. S. Mamatha, Proprietrix of Sumukha Group's, Aged about 36 years, W/o K.V. Umesha, R/at. No 27, 2nd Cross, havanur Extention Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bangalore- 560073
Defendant : 2
Mr. Umesha K.V, Aged About 45 years, S/o Huchirappa Kunamuddanahalli Veeranna, R/at. No 15, Tharun House, 1 A cross, Defence Colony, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bangalore- 560073

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1st of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs. 5,77,252/- (Rupees Five Lakhs seventy Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Two Only) as on 21.11.2017 together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby Summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on 27/06/2023 at 11:00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determind ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 10th day of April, 2023.

By the order of the court Asst. Registrar City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocates for Petitioner
S.M. ANEES AHAMED, B.M. KUSHALAPPA, Advocates,
No.4(10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore- 560001.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHYAMALA Mahesh Anegundi, W/O. Mahesh Anegundi,R/O.B 206,Sai Nandana Res,21,13mn,7 Crs Rd, Venkatapura,Hsr Lyt Sec 5, Blr–102,have changed name to Shyamala Anegundi vide afdvt dtd 25/04/23

I, MOHAMMED Usaama Fuaad S/o Mohammed Shafeeq Ahmed residing at No.112, New No.45, Rajamahal Vilas, 2nd Stage, Bhoopasandra, Bengaluru-560094 Karnataka have changed my name to Mohammed Usama Fuaad vide affidavit dated 27-04-2023 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 28TH ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-29)
O.S. NO. 25556/2022

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...PLAINTIFF
And
Sri. Krishnapriya
...DEFENDANT

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri. Krishnapriya,
S/o Sri. Shivanna,
Aged about 38 years, No. 88, 4th Main, 3rd Cross, HVR Layout, Magadi Main Road, Basaveshwarnagar, Opp. Nadaprabhu Kempegowda School, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560 079

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 3,31,105/- (Rupees Three Lakh Thirty One Thousand One Hundred Five Only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 28th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge **(CCH - 29)** in person or through, a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **03/07/2023** at **11.00 a.m.** failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **20/04/2023.**

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYOHALL UNIT, BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Jegathambigai Vanaraj W/O, Balaji Balakrishnan R/o G-103, Deja View Homes, Nagavarapalya, Cv Raman Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560093 have changed my name to Jegathambigai Balaji for all purposes.

I, BHAGAVATHEESWARAN Sankara Subramania Iyer, S/o Sankara Subramania Iyer, R/O. F–202,blk–D,3rd flr, aavaasa apt,2nd mn,3rd crs,vasanthvalabh ngr,8 phase, Blr–78, have changed my name as Bhagavatheesvaran Sankara Subramania Iyer, vide affidavit dated 20/04/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 13th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-22)
O.S. NO. 25212/2023

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
And
Sri. Kishan Kumar
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri. Kishan Kumar,
S/o Sri. Dorai Swami,
Aged about 31 years,
No. 329, 4th Cross,
Chamundai Nagar,
Chamundai Eswari Temple,
Bangalore- 560 032

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs.2,86,652/- (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Two Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 13th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-22) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 30.06.2023 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 20.04. 2023.

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYOHALL UNIT, BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 26th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-20)
O.S. NO. 26878/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
And
Sri. Prashantha Kumar
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri. Prashantha Kumar,
S/o Sri. Basavaraj,
Aged about 30 years,
M Z Building, Jamia Masjid Road, Shikari Palya, Hulimangala Post, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore- 560 105

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 3,80,689/- (Rupees Three Lakh Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Nine Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 26th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-20) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 26/06/2023 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 20/04/2023.

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYOHALL UNIT, BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 560 047

TENDERS

KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING
Head Office Complex, Vattiyoorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram, Ph: 2365678, 2365415
CAPT/560/2023-02(OUTSOURCE)

E-TENDER NOTICE

2 Cover e-tenders (Tender No. 10/23-24) are invited from the leading printing presses to undertake printing and supply of **Multicolour Booklet**, through online vide e-Tender id. 2023_CAPT_573726_1. Due date & Time of tender / bid submission (online) **03.05.2023** up to **11.00 AM.**

For detailed information log on the website: https://etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.captkerala.com.

27.04.2023 **Sd/- MD, C-apt**

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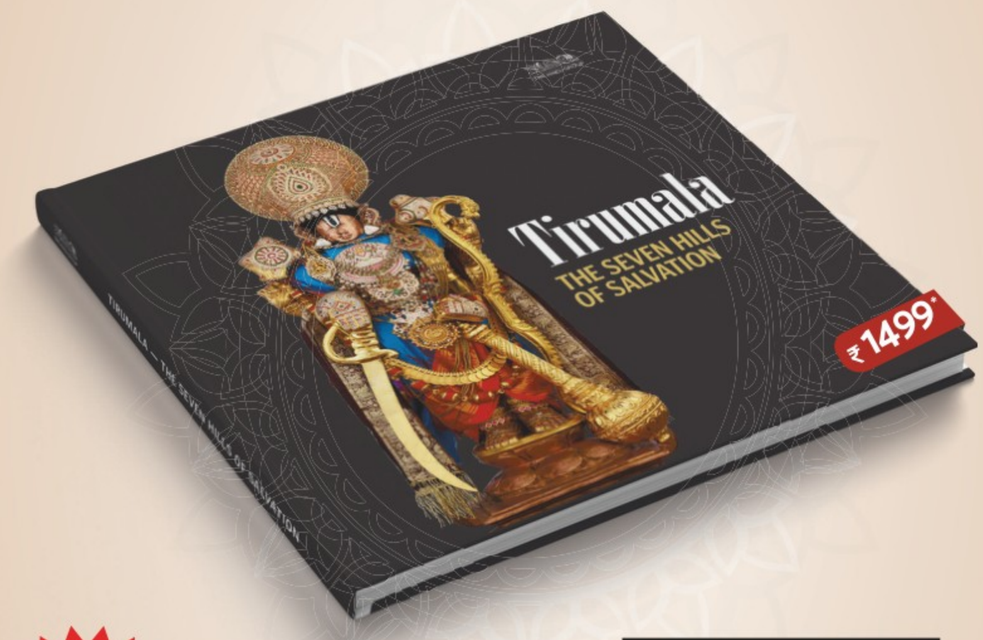

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Basavanagudi and Chickpet, among oldest areas, continue to suffer from problems as old as the city

Both the Assembly segments seem to face similar issues of shortage of drinking water, narrow roads, lack of parking space, and poor education and health infrastructure

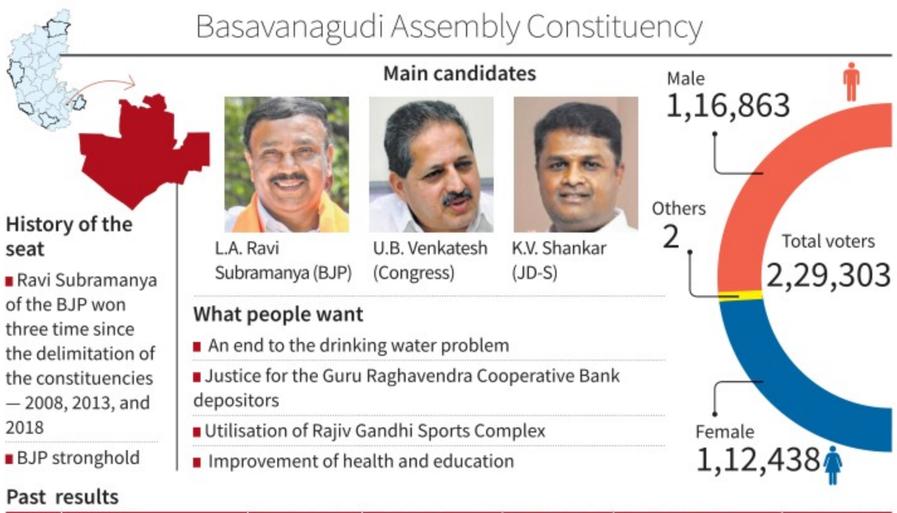
Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Chickpet and Basavanagudi are among the oldest areas of the city and the problems voters of these constituencies continue to face are just as old – shortage of drinking water, narrow roads, lack of parking space, and poor education and health infrastructure.

KEY CONSTITUENCIES

Chickpet Assembly constituency has densely populated pockets with narrow roads that are choked with traffic and they get flooded during heavy rain. There is also the problem of unscientific garbage disposal. One of the pressing problems in the old *pete* area, which is the wholesale market hub of the city, is the paucity of parking space. There are also several traffic bottlenecks in the constituency, including J.C. Road.

"People of Siddapura and surrounding areas have been suffering from lack of drinking water for many years and no public representative has initiated measures to fix this," said Srinivas from Chickpet constituency. While Basavanagudi is a relatively better-off constituency, similar problems continue to affect its residents too. Many alleged that development in the constituency is not uniform. "While areas where the upper-middle-class people reside are well off, pockets such as Ashoknagar, Gavipuram, Kathriguppe, and Dhobi Ghat are not. We face water, drainage, garbage, and other problems every day. Even the quality of roadworks is not on a par with that in the upper-middle-class pockets," complained Umashankar, a resident of Basavanagudi.



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	L.A. Ravi Subramanya (BJP)	76,018 58.46%	K. Bage Gowda (JD-S)	38,009 29.23%	M. Bore Gowda (Congress)	11,767 9.05%
2013	L.A. Ravi Subramanya (BJP)	43,868 42.33%	K. Bage Gowda (JD-S)	24,156 23.31%	B.K. Chandrashekar (Congress)	21,577 20.83%

Coop. bank issue

Financial irregularities in Sri Guru Raghavendra Cooperative Bank seems to have become a plank against the incumbent three-time MLA L.A. Ravi Subramanya. Congress candidate U.B. Venkatesh has been campaigning saying that he would ensure the case is handed over to the CBI if he gets elected. Mr. Subramanya has shot back that neither was he a member nor had he availed of a loan from the bank and that it was due to steps taken by party local MP, Tejaswi Surya [also his nephew], that most of the investors had got back their money.

Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	Uday B. Garudachar (BJP)	57,312 44.46%	R. V. Devaraj (Congress)	49,378 38.3%	D. Hemachandra Sagar (JD-S)	6,286 4.88%
2013	R.V. Devaraj (Congress)	44,714 41.1%	Uday B. Garudachar (BJP)	31,655 29.1%	M.C. Narayana Gowda	24,382 22.4%

While Mr. Subramanya and Mr. Venkatesh, both Brahmins, are fighting out for the community's large vote base in the constituency, the JD(S) has fielded K.V. Shankar from the Vokkaliga community, which is also in large numbers. Mr. Subramanya is banking on his and the party's support base to win for the fourth time, while the Opposition is hopeful of anti-incumbency helping it.

Four-cornered fight

Meanwhile, election in Chickpet will likely be a four-cornered fight this time and is expected to go down to the wire. After the delimitation of the constituency in 2008, the BJP has won twice and the Congress once – in 2013. BJP's internal surveys reportedly indicated its incumbent MLA, Uday Garudachar, faced a steep anti-incumbency and toyed with the idea of fielding a new candidate, but finally went with him again. The Congress ranks faced rebellion with the former Mayor Gangambike Mallikarjun and another ticket aspirant KGF Babu filing their nominations as Independents. Though Ms. Mallikarjun withdrew her nomination in favour of the party's candidate, the former MLA R.V. Devaraj, Mr. Babu is still in the fray.

The JD(S) has fielded the former councillor Imran Pasha. The presence of two Muslim candidates may split the community's votes and undermine the Congress too, it is speculated. Brijesh Kalappa is in the fray from the Aam Aadmi Party, fighting polls on an anti-corruption plank and a promise to develop K.R. Market on the lines of Chandini Chowk in Delhi.

Last year's floods playing on the minds of voters this poll season

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Many parts of Bengaluru, especially its information technology (IT) corridor on the K.R. Puram-Sarjapur Road axis, got flooded during the heavy rain in September 2022, putting the city in the headlines again for the wrong reasons. Last year's floods are playing on the minds of voters this election season and MLAs seem to be facing a strong anti-incumbency factor in pockets that were inundated.

FOCUS BENGALURU

The strongest acknowledgement of this came from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) when it denied ticket to its three-time MLA Arvind Limbavali from the Mahadevapura constituency, which houses the IT corridor and suffered the most in the 2022 floods.

"The party's internal surveys showed Mr. Limbavali was facing strong anti-incumbency, especially after last year's floods and his chances of victory again were slim. But in a scenario where senior leaders such as Jagadish Shettar defected, we compromised and gave the ticket to his wife," said a senior BJP leader from the city. However, multiple voters from the constituency *The Hindu* spoke to are not happy with the possibility of Mr. Limbavali trying to rule by proxy.

Voters' demand

Ajit Sequeira from Whitefield Rising said floods are definitely on the minds of voters in the constituency, but rather than discussing the micro issues such as drains and encroachments, the Million Voters Rising Citizen Manifesto they have released demands a separate municipal corporation for Mahadevapura, which, they argue, will help address the systemic problem better.

Jagadish Reddy from Varthur Rising said that for the first time, people had begun asking questions about the "all-pervading" corruption that allowed encroachments and resulted in floods.

V. Ramprasad, a lake conservation activist, said during his interaction with communities affected by floods, people had begun to ask the right questions – if they knew this was the lowest point in the area, it was flood-prone or it was encroached upon, they wouldn't have bought this property.

"All these questions point to the systemic corruption at the top of which sit the MLAs. So there is a lot of anti-incumbency against MLAs in pockets affected by floods," he said.

When Sai Layout got flooded in September 2022, local MLA and Urban Development Minister Byrathi Basavaraj faced public anger in front of television cameras, embarrassing him and prompting him to promise the issue would be resolved before the elections. "No permanent corrective measures have been initiated in the area and come another rain it will mostly be flooded again. We are tired of complete apathy by the political class to our problems," said Rajashekhar, a resident of K.R. Puram. Similarly, incumbent MLAs Satish Reddy, S.R. Vishwanath, and K. Gopalaiah from Bommanahalli, Yelahanka, and Mahalakshmi Layout, respectively, are facing anti-incumbency from pockets that were flooded last year.

MLAs seem to be facing a strong anti-incumbency factor in pockets that were flooded last year. FILE PHOTO

Progress over the years

Period	Source of funding	Storm-water drains developed (in km)
Up to 2006	BBMP	75
2006 to 2016	BBMP and GoI	102
2016 to 2018	CM's Nagarothana	212
2018 to 2021	CM's Nava Nagarothana	102
Proposed in 2022	Proposed GoK grants + emergency funds + Amrut Nagarothana	195
Sub-total of SWD developed		686
Total length of SWD in the city		859.9
Balance		173.9
Total number of encroachments of SWDs identified in 2016		2,951
DETAILS OF ENCROACHMENTS REMOVED		
2016-17		427
2018-19		1,480
2022		172
2023		88
Encroachments yet to be removed		784
IMPEDIMENTS TO REMOVAL OF ENCROACHMENTS		
Note removed due to court related matters		118
Not in SWD		39
Shift in drain's alignment		20
Lease by BBMP		3
Balance encroachments to be removed		607

A pattern

While data shows that Mr. Bommai provided funds for the redevelopment of 195 km of SWDs in 2022, the highest in any single year, it also displays a pattern where governments have been forced into action on the redevelopment of SWDs and clearing their encroachments after every flooding but the work slows down later. For instance, the redevelopment of SWDs and encroachment clearance drive first picked up pace when the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government was in power in 2016, following floods in many parts of the city that year; the work slowed down and again picked up pace in 2022 after another round of floods.

However, experts argue that not only the SWD encroachment clearance drives, which are active in spurts, are an eyewash mostly, but the survey identifying encroachments itself is vastly incomplete.

Meanwhile, there are also allegations against MLAs that the encroachment clearance drive has been very selective.

'Bengaluru's civic institutions collapsed under BJP rule'

The city should get special treatment by the government and focused attention. A fully dedicated team comprising professionals, political leaders, planners, engineers, and officials is needed to solve the city's problems, says Congress leader Dinesh Gundu Rao

INTERVIEW

Dinesh Gundu Rao

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Former Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president Dinesh Gundu Rao has been elected to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly for five terms consecutively from Gandhinagar constituency in Bengaluru. The former Minister says that lack of planning, corruption, collapse of civic institutions during BJP rule led to infrastructure bottlenecks in India's IT hub which has 28 Assembly segments. Excerpts:

Former Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao K. MURALI KUMAR

Bengaluru contributes more than 60% of the income to Karnataka's economy. How is this Karnataka election significant for your party, largely from Bengaluru perspectives?

Bengaluru is one of the most important cities of India. The growth and development of the city is a must. Proper planning and better infrastructure, better transportation are major issues. Bengaluru's governance is very much based on the State government's performance.... The city's administration is controlled by the State government. So, it requires a very good government in the State to realise Bengaluru's fullest potential.

What are the issues the Congress is focusing on in Bengaluru in this election?

Our manifesto which will be released soon will talk about it in detail. We are facing a lot of problems in the city due to lack of proper planning. If we don't have proper planning and vision then the growth becomes uncontrolled and haphazard. So, you have commercial and residential areas overlapping, green and ecological areas get destroyed. Moreover, public transport is a key for the city.

> We need to improve public transport and see that the peripheral ring road [project] is executed to decongest the city.

And Bengaluru's biggest problem is traffic. We need to improve public transport and we need to see that peripheral ring road is executed, though we have been talking for a long time, to decongest the city. And see that metro rail work continued with pace. Transport, environment and planning are key issues in Bengaluru.

Irrespective of the party in power, infrastructure woes appear to be constant in Bengaluru. What are the problems of a city like Bengaluru at a deeper level? Is it reliance on quick fixes rather than long term vision that take into accounts potential population growth etc.?

Bengaluru was a wonderful city during pre-liberalisation. It was a pensioners' paradise. The city has seen rapid growth after liberalisation of the economy. We have not been able to keep pace with the tremendous and uncontrolled growth. What we need is that the city gets special treatment by the government and focused attention. A fully dedicated team combined of professionals, political leaders, planners, engineers and officials is needed to solve the city's problems.

Do you think the BJP government fails to provide good governance in Bengaluru?

Yes. The BJP government has totally failed and it had no vision at all. They had planning, no discussions, no deliberations. In fact, the Chief Minister (Basavaraj Bommai) holds the Bengaluru development portfolio. Unfortunately, I don't see him calling a meeting of all stakeholders, all legislators to discuss what we need for the city. And it's all driven by projects. Its more based on getting more funds sanctioned for their (BJP) constituencies. The BJP MLAs are grabbing funds running into (rupees) thousands of crores while Congress and JD (S) constituencies are given paltry funds... They (BJP) purposely stalled the BBMP elections. Now BBMP is run by officials. Today, BDA is in bad shape. Because corruption has hit the ceiling. All (city) organisations such as BDA, BBMP, and BMRDA are collapsing. It's all based on how much money you make, how much commission you can take, how much funds I can take to my constituency. So, how can you develop a city in a holistic manner without a plan and a vision.

Do you think Congress will ensure more stability than the BJP and accelerate the growth of Bengaluru and Karnataka?

I am very sure of that. If you look at the Siddaramaiah-led government, it was a very stable one. Besides some minor issues, we gave good governance and there was far less corruption. There were no scandals and we implemented our manifesto. It was a much better government. Today the system is corrupt. We need to work on this, otherwise Karnataka's resources will be going to private peoples' pockets.

What are reasons for lower voting percentage in Bengaluru?

I think there are two aspects to this. One is we are unable to get an accurate voters' list. Normally, I have been noticing that 10% of the voters' names found missing in the list are either dead, moved on or not staying in the locality. I think this time the voters list would be more accurate. Second is apathy. More educated and more young voters also seem to be not so much interested in voting. In rural areas political involvement is much higher. Voters' personal connection with candidates is higher in rural areas.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from the film, *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan.*

The rash of remakes of South Indian movies by the Bombay film industry

With *Bholaa* and *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan* biting dust at the box office, it is time for the Hindi film industry to focus on reimagining South Indian films rather than just changing the setting from Bellary to Bhopal

Anuj Kumar

For more than a year, the Hindi film industry is unspooling a popular concept of computer science on the screen: garbage in, garbage out.

Bachchhan Paandey, *Jersey*, *Cuttputli*, *Hit*, *Vikram Vedha*, *Mili*, *Drishyam-2*, *Cirkus*, *Selfiee*, *Shehzada*, *Bholaa*, *Gumraah,* and *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan* – there has been a glut of remakes of South Indian masala. A few of these such as *Drishyam-2*, *Jersey,* and *Vikram Vedha* have been fermented organically but the rest raised a stink at the box office and were trashed in review columns.

The art of remake is neither new nor confined to the Bombay film industry alone. But gone are the days when Mehboob Khan updated his film, *Aurat (1940),* to make *Mother India (1957),* a masterpiece rooted in Nehruvian socialism. Or when film director Tapi Chanakya successfully relocated the entertaining *Ramudu Bheemudu* as *Ram Aur Shyam (1967)* or for that matter, Farhan Akhtar reimagined Chandra Barot's *Don (1978),* co-written by his father Javed Akhtar, into a sleek tribute in the new millennium.

Not at par

In the last few years, there has not been a single remake that is at par or better than the original. There is no *Amar Prem (1972)* that made one discover its Bengali original *Nishi Padma* or an *Akhree Raasta* (1986), which made us compare Amitabh Bachchan's performance with that of Kamal Haasan in the Tamil original, *Oru Kaidhiyin Diary*.

Over the years, even the best in the business has featured in remakes that played a part in either changing the course or resurrecting their careers. Much before *Ram Aur Shyam*, when Dilip Kumar was advised to come out of the tragic hero image, he chose to do *Azaad (1955)*, a remake of the M.G. Ramachandran-starrer *Malaikkallan*, which fetched him a Filmfare Award for Best Actor. Years later, in *Shakti (1982),* he essayed the role of an honest police officer in conflict with his antagonistic son, played by Sivaji Ganesan, in *Thangappathakkam*, when the Tamil hit was imbued with a fresh soul and verve by Salim Javed. The writer duo knew the craft of reinventing the original as they did in their first major success, *Hathi Mere Saathi (1971),* an adaptation of *Deiva Chayal*. Interestingly, the film's success prompted producer Sandow M.M.A Chinnappa Thevar to remake it in Tamil as *Nella Neram,* with M.G. Ramachandran playing Rajesh Khanna's part.

Jeetendra survived a slump in his career by acting in a series of remakes of Tamil and Telugu films, particularly with N.T. Rama Rao. Likewise, Mithun Chakraborty found a lifeline when T.L.V. Prasad rehashed *Amaithi Padai* as *Jallad* and *Rajendrudu Gajendrudu* as *Jodidaar.* Meanwhile, Anil Kapoor won respect by doing remakes of superlative films from the South such as *Eeshwar (1989)*, a remake of Kamal Haasan's *Swathi Muthyam*.

After legendary actor-director-producer L.V. Prasad set the trend by turning *Missamma* into *Miss Mary* (1955) and *Edhir Paradhatu* into *Sharada (1957)*, K. Bhim Singh, K. Viswanath, Bapu, and T. Rama Rao frequently transcended barriers of language and culture to remake their South Indian films into Hindi. Later, Priyadarshan showed immense skill and a bit of creativity in *Hera Pheri* (*Ramji Rao Speaking*) and seamlessly transported the soul of a South Indian potboiler into a Bollywood body with *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* (*Manichitrathazhu)* as a shining example, but of late, remaking films from the South has become a formula for those who believe a star can sell trash and that a writer becomes redundant in the remake business.

Flashy treatment

Even the translation of concept films such as *Sairat* and *Driving Licence* as *Dhadak* and *Selfiee,* respectively are marred by flashy treatment, emasculating the essence of the original. Both came from the stable of Karan Johar. So, when recent reports suggested that Dharma Productions is planning to redo *Pariyerum Perumal*, one wonders whether Johar would make a mess of yet another good film from the south.

The casual approach that is being put in making remakes can be gauged from the fact that director Farhad Samji first wanted to make Ajith's *Veeram* as *Bachchhan Paandey,* but then made *Jigarthanda* as *Bachchhan Paandey* with Akshay Kumar and remade *Veeram* as *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan* after Salman showed interest in it.

Lack of flair

Remaking a film doesn't necessarily mean a lack of originality in a particular industry but in the present scenario, it does suggest the Hindi film industry's lack of investment in screenwriting and inability to gauge the taste of the audience. The writers lack the flair that Gulzar showed in turning Uttam Kumar's *Bhranti Bilas* into Sanjeev Kumar's *Angoor*. In Rohit Shetty's *Cirkus,* only those portions worked which were directly lifted from the original. It seems *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan* has been green-lit just because director Farhad Samji told Salman Khan and his advisers that the protagonist in the original runs away from making a matrimonial commitment.

Salman is not new to remakes. Be it *Tere Naam (Sethu)* or *Wanted* (*Pokiri*), in fact, when there was a lull in his career, it was revived by a remake. But those were the days when the term, 'pan Indian' hadn't gathered weight and the southern stars didn't shine on the northern horizon. One feels sorry for the likes of Kamal Haasan and Uttam Kumar who were often replaced in the remakes just because producers felt they could not sell enough tickets up north.

Remakes like *Sooryavansham* had always been the driving force of television channels dedicated to cinema but during the pandemic, the consumption of South Indian films on OTT and YouTube increased manifold because of time and cheap internet rates. For instance, the Hindi dub of *Veeram* was already watched more than two crore times on YouTube before *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan* arrived this Eid. After COVID, when buying a cinema ticket has become a luxury, audiences expect a little more than fantasy from filmmakers.

They are not only aware of the source material but have also accepted the lead actors as their heroes. Prabhas, Allu Arjun, and Yash are household names now in the north and the audience prefers to watch the Hindi dub of *Baahubali*, *RRR*, *Pushpa, KGF, and Kantara* rather than wait for their remake. Technically refined, they touch the raw religious and caste nerve of the masses in the garb of entertainment.

A regressive shift

Industry sources say that the recent spurt in remakes of South Indian films is because audiences have rejected the Hollywood tilt of Hindi film content and want something rooted and polyphonic which the films from the South are providing. Many young Bollywood filmmakers, who handle Hindi films with an English mind and prefer to remake a European or Korean film, find this shift regressive and chaotic, and are taking time to adapt. Also, with the OTT space taking care of the dark, realistic themes, the big screen is increasingly meant for larger-than-life experiences which the single-note treatment of Hindi films has stopped delivering in recent years.

Industry insiders also say that it is not necessarily the film but the budget of remakes that is failing. When the original made in ₹25 crore to ₹30 crore is remade with a budget of ₹100 crore, the creative imagination doesn't swell in the same proportion as the fee of the star, who in most cases, has a major say these days. For instance, a non-vegetarian *Bholaa* is no match for *Kaithi* in the present environment. The writer watched the film at an IMAX theatre with great expectations only to find how director Devgn failed actor Ajay in the din that the background score created.

It is time, the producers employ the rules of remake where reimagining the original is more important than a shot-to-shot copy and try to lace it with something original that we don't have.

It is time the Hindi film industry gets picky when shopping for a remake and that if it has to make garbage, why not churn out its own?

ABSTRACT

By academia, for the general public

Srinivasan Ramani

The study of humanities and social sciences is not only for those with academic inclinations but also for those who have an interest in public policy, learning about society, understanding social, political and economic issues and so on. Concepts from social sciences and the humanities do not just train minds for academic pursuits, but help to understand the world around them better.

Which is why we, in *The Hindu,* try to add conceptual analysis as part of our offerings on explanatory journalism in these pages on Text & Context. But there are dedicated websites today that feature academics writing for a general audience, essentially opinion and analysis provided by those employed in institutions such as universities, that are melded with news analysis and research reports.

The Conversation, for e.g., is a good resource of such work – what began in Australia in 2011 has now spread to other international editions in Africa, Canada, France, the U.K. and the U.S. A not-for-profit network of media outlets, *The Conversation* serves the purpose of publishing news and research reports that are composed mostly by academicians and researchers, under a Creative Commons Licence, allowing reuse without modification. The website played a vital role in bringing out research reports during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In India, long standing journals such as the *Economic and Political Weekly* (EPW) have long straddled the space between academic publishing and writing in public interest. The unique journal/magazine features commentaries on popular news subjects besides peer reviewed research articles published from across the social sciences and humanities spectrum. What began as the *Economic Weekly* in 1949 and was rechristened as the EPW in 1966 continues to remain a leading port of call for society scientists across disciplines in India.

But what has set EPW, brought out by the Sameeksha Trust, apart from other distinguished journals published in India is the fact that it has allowed for conversations on matters of public interest between different representatives of civil society – activists, academicians, government officials, students, and intellectuals while being a peer-reviewed publication of academic standing as well.

In recent years, since the Internet boom, there have been similar initiatives to bring academic expertise to journalism and in popular mediums. Websites such as *Ideas for India* – an economics and policy portal – utilise the writings of social scientists to target a wide audience beyond policymakers and researchers.

Then, there is *The India Forum*, published by the Vichar Trust, which has featured articles on contemporary issues by academic writers but written for a general audience in an engaging manner. The website has featured a diversity of themes related to public interest - from the economy to climate change to health to technology, society, gender, history, law among others. It includes several formats of articles including explainers and critical commentaries and has also provided a forum for post-graduate students of social science to weigh in on issues of public import.

This is not an exhaustive list of websites that attest to serious and scholar-driven journalism in an accessible way on the Internet. But for those keen on looking for outlets other than the mainstream media (and the press) to be educated on issues related to public interest, the aforementioned websites are a good starting point.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On April 28, 100 years ago, the original Wembley Stadium was opened in London. A quiz on stadia and sporting arenas around the globe

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

The word/term relevant to this quiz comes from a Greek word which was a measure of length equalling the length of 600 human feet. What is the Greek word and its English derivative?

QUESTION 2

Contrary to popular perception, the Narendra Modi Stadium is not the largest stadium as per overall capacity. According to Guinness World Records, which famous stadium in the U.S. has a permanent seated capacity of 2,35,000?

QUESTION 3

If Chennai Super Kings' home ground is the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, which English county side plays its home games at the 'Mecca of Cricket', Lord's?

QUESTION 4

The San Siro is the home of two eminent football clubs. Name the clubs and the actual name of the stadium?

QUESTION 5

The Kaseya Centre and the Toyota Centre are the stadiums of which former NBA champions?

QUESTION 6

Which is the only stadium in India that bears the name of an American employee of an Indian multinational?

Visual question:
Outside which famous playing arena can one see this statue and whom does it represent? GETTY IMAGES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This material, concrete, is the world's second-most used, behind X. Name X. **Ans: Water**
2. An important ingredient of concrete is X. The most common type of X in the world is Portland X. What is X? **Ans: Cement**
3. The bacterium, Sporosarcina pasteurii, takes calcium and urea to produce calcite, a form of _____ _____. Fill in the blanks. **Ans: Calcium carbonate**
4. Most of concrete's enormous carbon footprint is due to the production of _____, the main component of cement. Fill in the blank. **Ans: Clinker**
5. Concrete and X are the major culprits of the urban heat island effect. Name X, which is called asphalt in the U.S. **Ans: Bitumen**
Visual: This dam has the world's highest hydroelectric power generation capacity. Name the dam. **Ans: Three Gorges Dam, China**
Early Birds: Ambuj Bhardwaj | Indra Sharma | K.N. Viswanathan

Word of the day

Mirth:
amusement, especially as expressed in laughter

Synonyms: merriment, high spirits, cheerfulness

Usage: *The group was full of mirth and excitement after winning the game show*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/3Hi94vN

International Phonetic Alphabet: /mə́:θ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Kharge likens Modi to snake, then clarifies it was not directed at him

A little later in the day, speaking at a rally, the Congress chief said that his words were meant for BJP and not the PM

AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge addressing a rally at Ron in Gadag district on Thursday. ANI

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge likened Prime Minister Narendra Modi to a snake at an election rally in Gadag district on Thursday but clarified later in the day that his words were aimed at the BJP and not Mr. Modi.

Addressing an election rally at Naregal in Gadag district on Thursday, Mr. Kharge said Mr. Modi was like a poisonous snake. "If you try to test whether it is poisonous or not, you will die," he said.

However, later in the day, as BJP leaders took serious objection to his statement, addressing another rally in Ron in Gadag district, Mr. Kharge clarified that his words were not intended at Mr. Modi but the BJP.

"What I meant was the BJP is like a poisonous snake. Even if someone touches it, death is certain. These words were not meant for Mr. Modi. Personally I don't have any grudge against any individual," he said.

Corruption issue

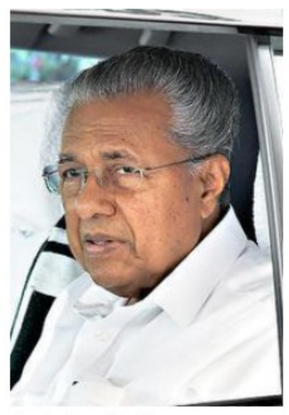
"The BJP is mired in corruption. But if anyone questioned it, he or she would be threatened with IT and ED raids. That's why the Modi government is like a snake," he clarified.

Mocking Mr. Modi on his stance on corruption, Mr. Kharge said at the Naregal rally, "He [Mr. Modi] says 'na khaoonga, na khane doonga. But he does politics by allowing those taking 40% commission to sit beside him. He has come to destroy the nation by his ideology."

He further said, "When the Opposition questioned the government, they spoke about his 56 inch chest. We are not checking his physique. We are measuring his works," he said.

BJP banking on trends in U.P. and Kerala where poll history was rewritten

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU



The 50-year history of ruling party not winning elections was changed in Uttar Pradesh by Yogi Adityanath-led BJP in 2022, while such a trend that prevailed for 40 years in Kerala was halted by Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF in 2021.

The ruling BJP, which is facing poll history of no ruling parties in Karnataka winning Assembly elections to return to power, is banking on the trends in U.P. and Kerala where the history was rewritten recently. In both, ruling parties retained power.

The BJP government led by Yogi Adityanath changed the 50-year trend of the ruling parties not wining Assembly poll in Uttar Pradesh in 2022, while a similar trend that existed for about 40 years was halted in Kerala in 2021 by Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF.

Sources in the BJP State unit say that they have assessed the victories in both the States carefully and feel that it is possible to beat the trend in Karnataka too.

Symbolic narratives

"Our main poll plank is strong political leadership in Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We are presenting a development model of 'double engine' government where the back-engine is that of Mr. Modi's while the front one will be by the Chief Ministers. It is a symbolic narration of development opportunities that can open up if the same party is in power both at the State and the Centre," says a prominent BJP Central leader.

In addition to this, the party is also banking on its social engineering initiative of increasing reservation for SC/ST communities and what it calls "rationalisation of reservation" under OBC quota for the dominant communities of Lingayats and Vokkaligas.

"The then iconic Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N.T. Rama Rao was able to get a full control over Andhra Pradesh politics after he increased reservation to these communities by 1%. We have now increased reservation for SC communities by 2% and ST communities by 4%," he said.

Mid-course review

The party strategists, who are making a mid-course review of party's ongoing poll preparations, claim that the two-day mega drive taken up by the party organisation on April 25 and 26 in which 98 Central leaders and 200 State leaders took part and the Prime Minister's virtual address to the party workers on April 27 in which 67 lakh workers participated, had pepped up the poll campaign. "The ultimate thing for us is the campaign by the Prime Minister who will address 19 conventions in Karnataka starting from this weekend," the Central leader said.

New faces

Meanwhile, a State functionary of the BJP maintained that the initiative of denying ticket to several senior leaders and fielding 75 new faces had sent positive signals to the party cadre though it had paved the way for rebellion in several constituencies. "The cadre is enthused by this experiment as there is a feeling it would create space for youth and new faces," he claimed.

Unique underwater voter awareness campaign by scuba divers near Netrani island in Uttara Kannada

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

Scuba divers display a placard on voter awareness near Netrani island off Murudeshwar in Uttara Kannada. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In a unique move to create awareness on the need to vote, a scuba diving company at Murudeshwar and Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) committee of Uttara Kannada are enabling scuba divers to display water-proof placards with slogans under the sea, in the surroundings of Netrani island in Arabian Sea.

The company, Netrani Adventures, takes tourists for scuba diving to Netrani, which is known for different species of corals and fishes. The company offers its services off Murudeshwar coast from October to May. Netrani island is 20 km off the coast. The distance is covered in an hour in a mechanised boat. Divers are taken up to 30 metres deep in the sea.

Company Managing Director Ganesh Harikantra told *The Hindu* that the divers (tourists) display placards with slogans like 'voting is an important right guaranteed by the Constitution', 'voting is our right', and 'protect sanctity of voting'.

"We hand over the photos and video clippings of the dive with our clients, who, in turn, share them on social media. Hence, the reach is vast," Mr. Harikantra said.

The company has about 10 such placards with different slogans. The awareness campaign for the 2023 Assembly elections was launched on April 24. The company takes about 30 persons for diving every day. Mr. Harikantra said the company launched this awareness campaign during the 2018 Assembly elections, and continued the same during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. "This year is the third time," he said. The initiative is being supported by Mavalli gram panchayat I and Mavalli gram panchayat II.

Prabhakar Chikmane, Nodal Officer, SVEEP committee, Bhatkal taluk said that officials too had dived during launch of the campaign.

"We had displayed an enlarged prototype of a voter's card underwater while launching the drive for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections to reach out to young voters," he said.

BJP and Congress workers clash at Siddaramanahundi

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Workers of the BJP and the Congress clashed at Siddaramanahundi in Varuna constituency where former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is pitted against Housing Minister V. Somanna of the BJP in what is reckoned to be a high-stakes battle.

Workers of the BJP alleged that they were beaten and roughed up by supporters of Mr. Siddaramaiah when they went to campaign at Siddaramanahundi, and were told not to enter the village. Incidentally, Siddaramanahundi is the native village of Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Physical fights

Arguments became bitter and turned physical, and the BJP claimed that one of its workers, Nagesh, was badly injured and had been shifted to JSS Hospital for treatment.

The BJP also accused the Congress of letting loose hired goonda elements in the constituency to prevent their candidate, Mr. Somanna, from campaigning. Expressing concern that the elections could be vitiated and would not be free and fair, the BJP approached the Meghalapura police and filed a complaint, besides seeking security for Mr. Somanna.

The BJP workers have also alleged that relatives of Mr. Siddaramaiah were involved in the attack. Mr. Somanna and Mr. Pratap Simha were campaigning in the village when the incident occurred.

'Self-defence'

Congress spokesman M. Lakshman, while confirming the developments, said that the violence was triggered by BJP elements and the Congress workers acted in self-defence.

He said BJP supporters should have sought votes and campaigned on development issues but they had launched a personal attack on Mr. Siddaramaiah, which irked his supporters in the village. There was a argument but BJP workers assaulted Congress workers, resulting in the skirmish.

He also alleged that there were nearly 300 anti-social elements and goondas from Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and other States creating havoc in the constituency since the last four days and that a complaint had been filed with the District Election Officer.

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INBRIEF

Man killed in lift accident

A storekeeper was killed when a lift accidentally crashed on him in a commercial complex he was working in on J.C. Road in Bengaluru. The deceased has been identified as Vikas Kumar, 25, who had come to work in the city about six months ago. On Wednesday, he was unloading goods from the goods lift on the ground floor, when he accidentally pressed the buttons in the lift and it came crashing on his head, even as he had leaned over the counter unloading goods. He was killed on the spot.

Three booked for allegedly blocking woman's car

A woman who was driving in Varthur in the morning hours of Thursday alleged that her car was hit by a Tata Ace vehicle from behind and after chasing her for a kilometre, two persons in the vehicle blocked her car while also trying to break into it. According to the police, the woman, named Soumya Narayan was driving from Varthur Kodi towards Sarjapur between 7.30 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. when the accident occurred. While the two people chased and blocked her car, a third person also joined later. It was then that the woman called the emergency number 112 and a police officer she knew. The police soon reached the place and intervened while the woman later registered a complaint at the Varthur police station. The FIR has been lodged against Zaheer, 25, Hazar, 40 and Irshad, in his 40s. "The guys alleged that the woman was at fault in the accident, and she drove away after causing it," an official said.

"Some miscreants hit my wife's car from behind and chased her for a kilometre. On calling 112, the police reached the spot in five minutes and apprehended the culprits. Very scary for a lone driver especially women," Soumya's husband Tiger Ramesh shared on Twitter.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (April 28, Friday), the following explainer is available:

- How rising sea levels threaten agriculture, rainfall, and the social fabric **bit.ly/risingsealevelsthreat**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

685 candidates from over 75 registered unrecognised parties in the fray this election

In the 2018 Assembly polls, a total of 83 parties, including 70 RUPPs, had fielded their candidates; officials say the number of parties contesting the 2023 Assembly elections is around 85

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Every election season ushers in many 'newborn' registered unrecognised political parties (RUPP), who compete with major national parties to find political ground. This time, 685 candidates from over 75 such parties are in the fray in Karnataka.

The RUPP candidates are contesting against candidates from five major national political parties - BJP, Congress, AAP, BSP, CPI (M), one regional party JD (S) and other State parties such as JD(U) and National People's Party (NPP).

Although the Election Commission is yet to issue a gazette notification on the total list of contesting candidates, officials said overall the number of parties in the fray for the 2023 Assembly elections is around 85. This includes mining baron Janardhana Reddy's 'Kalyana Karnataka Pragathi Party' (KKPP), which is making more noise in Kalyana Karnataka region. This party has been allotted a symbol of football.

In the 2018 Assembly polls, 83 parties including 70 RUPPs had fielded their candidates. While around 20 new RUPPs emerged in the State since 2018, the Election Commission of India (ECI) declared nine RUPPs as inactive in the State. In March, the ECI approved applications of six new RUPPs seeking concession in the allotment of common symbols to its candidates who would be fielded in the 2023 Karnataka Assembly polls.

No. of parties in race over the years

20	1989
22	1994 and 1999
32	2004
31	2008
59	2013
83	2018

Chief Electrol Officer Manoj Kumar Meena

The ECI wrote to the Chief Electoral Officer on March 25 that 6 RUPPs can be allotted a common symbol from the list of free symbols if they field candidates in at least 10% of the 224 constituencies

ECI letter

The ECI wrote to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for Karnataka on March 25 that these parties - Bharatiya Praja Aikyata Party, Karnataka Rashtra Samithi, Karnataka Pragnyavantha Janatha Party, Surya Janaseva Party, Jana Spandana Party and Hindustan Janata Party Secular - can be allotted a common symbol from the list of free symbols if they field candidates in at least 10% of the 224 constituencies. This is apart from fulfilling other required conditions listed under the "The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968."

Accordingly, the above mentioned parties have been allotted symbols - gas cylinder, battery torch, television, nagrik (citizens), sewing machine and helicopter - respectively.

A senior official said that the common symbols allotted to the candidates of these parties are not allotted to any other candidates. However, the said symbol will be available for allotment as a free symbol to other independent candidates in the constituencies where these parties do not set up candidates.

Previous elections

From 31 parties that fielded candidates in 2008, the number rose to 59 in 2013 Assembly elections. This included six national parties, one State party and six parties from other States.

In 2013, B.S. Yediyurappa and B. Sriramulu, who formed the Karnataka Janata Party and Badavara Shramikara Raithara (BSR) Congress, respectively, fought the elections with their separate outfits. However, these parties were later merged with the BJP.

In the first general election for the then Mysore Assembly held in 1952 had a total of six parties contesting. Since then till 1985 - in seven assembly elections - the number of contesting parties did not cross double digits. It was only after the nineties that the number of parties gradually increased.

A total of 20 parties in 1989, 22 each in 1994 and 1999, 32 in 2004, 31 in 2008 and 59 in 2013, including national, regional, state, out-of-state and registered parties, have contested the elections, according to ECI data.

Japanese team reviews LUPEX mission with ISRO

The Lunar Polar Exploration mission working group members reviewing the project at ISRO.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Even as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for the launch of the Chandrayaan-3 this year, work on another moon mission involving India and Japan, Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX), has been gathering steam in the last few days.

The Indo-Japanese LUPEX mission is envisaged to explore the permanently shadowed regions or the dark side of the moon.

A team from Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) is in India and meeting with ISRO scientists and engineers involved in the LUPEX mission. "With LUPEX members in India. First face-to-face LUPEX working group meeting since 2019. In Working Group1, the results of the landing site analysis were shared, and opinions were exchanged on promising candidate sites.

The status of ISRO's instruments on the rover was also shared and the future coordination policy was confirmed," Lunar Polar Exploration@JAXA(LUPEX) tweeted.

It further said that information on antennas on the ground that send and receive commands and telemetry was also shared, and that there were exchange of ideas on methods for estimating where landers and rovers are on the Moon. The main objective of the mission is to confirm the presence of water in the polar regions of the moon.

The mission is expected to be launched in the next couple of years. The launch vehicle for the mission will be a Japanese rocket, the lander system will be developed by ISRO while the Rover by JAXA and its landing point will be the south pole of the moon. Various scientific instruments developed by the two space agencies will also be part of the mission.

THE HINDU
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SC: How did HC Division Bench 'whitewash' serious charges against civil judge?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Supreme Court of India has wondered how a Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka had "completely whitewashed" serious charges against a civil judge and certified him as "innocent and honest judicial officer."

"We have not come across a case where the High Court, while setting aside an order of penalty has held that there shall not be any further inquiry against the delinquent. But in this case, the High Court has done exactly the same, creating a new jurisprudence," the apex court observed.

A Bench of the apex court comprising Justice P. Ramasubramanian and Justice Pankaj Mithal made these observations in its April 10, 2023, verdict of upholding the High Court's 2008

FROM THE COURT

administrative order of dismissing M. Narasimha Prasad, who was a civil judge (junior division). He was dismissed on the charges of failure to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty.

Appeal

The apex court allowed the appeals filed by the Registrar-General of the High Court, who had questioned the August 2019 judgment of HC's Division Bench, which had set aside the 2008 dismissal order and directed payment of all monetary benefit with 8% interest per annum to the delinquent by treating him as if he was in service till the age of superannuation.

Apart from being found guilty for not preparing full judgment during pronouncements in various cases, he was also found guilty on the charge of selling certain seized valuable properties to a relative of his court staff by diverting the properties notified from the actual auction process.

'Very-very curious'

However, the apex court termed as 'very-very curious' the observations of HC's division bench that 'acts of omission and commission attributed to the delinquent civil judge do not constitute grave misconduct.'

"Adding fuel to fire, the High Court has recorded in the impugned judgement that dismissing him from service itself is very atrocious. Such a finding is nothing but a veiled attack on the Full Court of the High Court," the apex court observed.

Noticing that HC's division bench had gone to the extent of certifying the delinquent civil judge as 'an innocent and honest officer,' the apex court said, "We do not know from where the High Court came to such a conclusion."

The apex court said that "a judicial officer cannot pronounce the concluding portion of his judgment in open court without the entire text of the judgment being prepared/dictated... We do not know how the findings with regard to such serious charges have been completely white-washed..."

The charges in not preparing/dictating judgments, but providing a *fait accompli*, is completely unacceptable and unbecoming of a judicial officer," the apex court said.

The judicial officer was dismissed from the service after the Full Court of the High Court of Karnataka passed a resolution in this regard based on the outcome of the five separate departmental inquiries held against him.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, APR. 28	
RISE 06:01	SET 18:34
RISE 12:40	SET 01:01
SATURDAY, APR. 29	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:34
RISE 13:30	SET 01:44
SUNDAY, APR. 30	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:34
RISE 14:17	SET 02:22

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	26
Mysuru	35	24
Bengaluru	33	23

Bengaluru Today
35°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Thunderstorm may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and humid. Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chances at few places.

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'Inflation, corruption not election issues'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

BJP national general secretary Arun Singh on Thursday said inflation and corruption are not an issue in Karnataka elections as he claimed that the people will vote for the BJP on its development agenda. "The inflation is permanent and it won't cause any adverse impact on the party in the polls. The charges of corruption against the Basavaraj Bommai-led government lack evidence," he said at a press conference here.

ODISHA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD (OSAMB)
(A Statutory Organization of Govt. of Odisha)
Plot No.1800 (P), Baramunda, Post-Khandagiri, Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Bhubaneswar.
Ph.No.0674-2952410, Email: osamboard99@yahoo.com
No. - 03 Dated - 27.04.2023
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF AGENCIES FOR DISTRICT AND STATE LEVEL BUYER SELLER MEET
OSAMB invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of Agencies for District And State Level Buyer Seller Meet
The EOI documents covering the details of information, eligibility criteria, selection process and other terms & conditions can be downloaded from https://coop.odisha.gov.in from 28.04.2023. The last date for submitting the EOI documents through regd / speed post is 15.05.2023 by 5 P.M. The Submission of queries is by 5.00 PM of 06.05.2023. The technical bids will be opened on 16.05.2023 at 11 A.M. The Authority reserves the right to reject any / all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/-
General Manager
OSAM Board, Bhubaneswar
CAD-367: OIPR-01444/11/0001/2324

DEFENCE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
(Deemed to be University U/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956), Girinagar, Pune - 411 025.
Admission Notice – July- 2023 [Ph.D, & M.Sc Food Technology Programme]
Defence Institute of Advanced Technology is an autonomous Institution, fully funded by the Department of Defence Research & Development, Ministry of Defence, established with the objective of imparting Post Graduate Education in Engineering and Applied Sciences on thrust area relevant to Defence, Industries, R & D and also to conduct research in the Core areas of Defence Technologies.
DIAT invites applications for the Ph.D. programme under Institutional Scholarship Category, in Engineering and Applied Sciences Departments. Details of Schools / Branches / Programmes and other terms and conditions are available at **www.diat.ac.in**
All candidates selected under Institutional Scholarship category are entitled to get fellowship as per Institute / Govt. of India norms. In addition, candidates are entitled to avail contingency grant for attending National / International conference in India / abroad.
In addition to the above, Industry Sponsored candidates, Project Staff from DRDO Laboratories & DIAT (JRF/SRF/PA) & Candidates with CSIR-NET, DST, UGC-NET or any other National fellowship / scholarship available to them are also eligible to apply for Ph. D admission.
Details of M.Sc Food Technology programme for Industry Sponsored candidates are available at **www.diat.ac.in**
Aspiring candidates for Ph.D programme, may apply online for admission from **28/04/2023 to 02/06/2023.** Hard copy of the online application along with relevant documents must reach to Joint Registrar (Academics), DIAT (DU) Girinagar, Pune-411025 latest by 1730 hours on or before **09/06/2023**

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client intends to Purchase the Immovable property bearing property bearing Old Site No. 188, New No. 188/16, measuring East to West 45 Feet., and North to South 30 Feet., totally measuring 1350 sq ft., alongwith residential house constructed thereon, situated at 2nd 'B' Cross, Lakkasandra Extension, 17th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore–560030, presently within the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, for valuable sale consideration with certain terms and conditions from its owner **Mr. Hanuman Venkat Babu Son of Mr. M. Gopalan**, and accordingly they require to perform their part of the contract and execute the Registered Sale Deed in favour of the respective Purchasers. There by anybody having any matter of right, title, interest, possession, claim, share, demand whatsoever shall file their objections/claims in writing along with the required and necessary documents to our below address **between 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. in the working days within 15 days from the date of publication** of this Notice, falling which our clients proceeds to get executed the Registered Sale Deed of the Schedule Properties, hoping that they alone has the legal, valid, marketable right and title and the full and absolute owners in exclusive possession and able, capable and competent to alienate the Schedule Properties and the Schedule Properties are free from all lien, charge, encumbrances.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Old Site No.188, New No.188/16, measuring East to West 45 Feet., and North to South 30 Feet., totally measuring 1350 sq ft., alongwith residential house constructed thereon, situated at 2nd 'B' Cross, Lakkasandra Extension, 17th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore – 560 030, presently within the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, and bounded on the :
East by: Site No.185; **West by:** Road; **North by:** Site No.189; **South by:** Site No.187.
Ashwini Annegowda B. K.
Advocate, No.24, Sri Rama Mandir Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560004. MOB: 9538535801

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are informed that my client **"Mr.Muzibur Rahman", S/o. Mohammed Ali,** intends to purchase the Residential House Property bearing **Western Portion** of new Municipal No.10, old No.14, BBMP PID No.33-35-10, measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 40 feet., alongwith Ground & First Floor residential building, situated at **11th Cross, Cholurpalya, Magadi Road, Bangalore 560 023,** presently within the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, which is bounded as follows:
East by : Remaining Portion (Eastern Portion), same property,
West by : Property bearing No.15,
North by : Road,
South by : Property bearing 8.
From its owners **Mr.Vishwanath Shivarama Murthy** S/o. Late Shivarama Murthy & **Mrs.Pushpalatha S.,** D/o. Late Shivarama Murthy.
Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within **15 days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there are no claims over the said property.
M.V.J. Law Chamber,
52, 4th Cross, Ganesha Block, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore-560086
Mobile No. : 9538305787
email : mvjslawchambers@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the Public that Original Gift Deed dated 16.01.1980 registered as document No.6596/1979-80 Book-I & Volume No. 1470 at Pages No. 114 to 116 in the office of the Sub-Registrar Bangalore, & Gift Deed dated 16.01.1980 registered as document No.6600/1979-80 of Book I & Volume No.1471 in the office of the Sub-Registrar Bangalore and Gift Deed dated 16.01.1980 registered as document No.6595/1979-80 of Book I & Volume No. 1465 at Pages No. 154 to 156 in the office of the Sub-Registrar Bangalore in respect of Sy. No. 123, Situated at **Kattaraguppe Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk** has been lost. All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the Gift Deeds If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **7 days** from this present. And Police Complaint also Given On 14.04.2023 Vide Lost Report No. 0533335/2023.
Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client is Sri Deepak A N & Varaprasad N and others are intends to purchase the property bearing No. 38/4, situated at Melekote village,Toobagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, measuring 02 Acers 33 Guntas including 23 Guntas 'A' Karab bounded on EAST BY: Properties of Pillamma and Chikkegowda, WEST BY: Nagappa's Property, NORTH BY: Properties of Gangappa and Pillamma, and SOUTH BY: B M Ramaiah's Property, from the owner Smt. B. Pushpavathi, W/o Y.S. Raghu, aged about 50 years, Residing at No.661, 7th Cross, Bandappa Road, Bengaluru- 560 022. Any person claiming any right or objecting to the same do so with documents within seven days from the date of this publication.
RAVI A BELAGATTI, Advocate
No.24, IV Model House Street, Basavangudi, Bengaluru - 560 004.
M: 9901578210.

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE No.10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041
No. QC/32(1)/serviceproviders/2022 Date: 27.04.2023
e-Tender Notice
Online Tender invited for **ENGAGEMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER FOR PRESERVATION OF FOODGRAINS AT BSC WHITEFIELD, D.O. BANGALORE, (CAPACITY 1,06,488 MT) THROUGH SKILLED MANPOWER** under "Two Bid System" through CPPP portal and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in" & "https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app"** Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 22.05.2023.** For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **& "https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app".**
-SD-
GENERAL MANAGER (KTK)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby informed that my client has agreed to purchase the property more fully described in the schedule herein below from Sri.T.K.Ram Kumar, aged about 68 years, S/o.Late.T.K.Venkata Ram Residing at No.11, 'Geetanjali' 4th Main, 11th Cross, Vyalikaval, Malleswaram, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - 560003, the same having been purchased by him under two different sale deeds from Sri.G.N.Muniramappa S/o.Late.Nanjappa under: a) Registered sale deed dated 17-05-2000 which is registered as document No. 2860/2000-01 at pages 108 to 116 in volume No.6342 of Book I in the office of the sub-registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore. b) Registered sale deed dated 17-05-2000 which is registered as document No. 2862/2000-01 at pages 124 to 132 in volume No.6342 of Book I in the office of the sub-registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore.
Any person having any right/claim over the schedule property or any portion thereof in any manner may lodge his/her/their claim/objection in writing to the undersigned within 7 days hereof along with copies of all the documents being relied upon, as otherwise my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/objections from any person/s.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of property bearing site No.117 and 117A, assessment No.30/2, Present BBMP E-swathu PID No.100-570-117 and Present BBMP E-swathu PID No. 100-427-117A carved out of Sy. No. 30/2 situated at 6th Cross Road, Narayanappa Extension, Geddalahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk measuring East to West : 130 feet, North to South : 40 feet, in all measuring 5200 Sq. ft, along with RCC roofed house existing in an area of 200 Sq. ft and bounded on the
East by : Road, West by : Property No. 118 (AECS Layout), North by : Road, South by : Road.
S.R. Chowda Reddy, Advocate
No.81, 2nd Cross, Navyanagar, Jakkur, Bengaluru-560 064. Ph: 9886557731

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Missing amenity: People waiting for buses at Hebbal in Benagluru. At many bus stops, there are no shelters for passengers to wait. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Safety, a concern: A scene at Balekundri Circle in Bengaluru. Many women who travel by BMTC buses at night deal with multiple problems that come with the poor frequency of services. K. MURALI KUMAR

At night, BMTC leaves waiting passengers anxious

In a city like Bengaluru, which is home to many types of industries and service sectors, the public transport system at night leaves a lot to be desired. Commuters complain of night bus services that are few and far between — forcing them to rely on autos, taxis or private vehicles — and lack of safety at bus stops. BMTC authorities, however, say there is not much demand for night services

Suchith Kidiyoor, Jayanth R., Jahnavi T.R. and Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Finding a city bus to travel at night is a harrowing experience for people who work late hours or those who arrive in the city after long-distance travel. Chethan Kumar, who works in a restaurant near Sahakarnagar said, "After finishing work around 11 p.m., I rush to Kodigehalli Gate bus stand to catch a bus that goes towards Devanahalli. At night, the frequency of buses is not good. After getting down near Bagalur Cross, I walk for 2 km to reach home. There are hardly any buses on Bagalur Main Road at night. It is extremely difficult for those who work till late night to rely on city buses."

According to the information shared by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), the corporation operates 59 schedules from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. as night service buses. Officials claim that the 'night out' service of the corporation, operated between 2 p.m. and 2 p.m. (next day), caters to the demand of people travelling at night. A total of 2,615 buses are operated in this shift. The BMTC has a fleet size of 6,767 buses out of which 5,563 buses are operated daily.

When asked about complaints by passengers on the lack of adequate bus services at night, a BMTC official said, "We are providing bus services as per the demand. We do not see much demand for night services. The operational cost of running a bus is more than ₹65 per km. But in most of the services operated at night, the earnings per km is not even ₹25. This is an indication that there is no demand." To travel in night service buses, passengers pay one-and-a-half fare.

This, however, seems like a chicken and egg situation. The Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels' Association and several retailers are keen that they be allowed to exercise the permission given by the State government to keep the establishments open for 24 hours. But they complain that it is not viable as people do not stay out due to lack of public transport at night-time. Meanwhile, already staff-crunched city police also do not allow establishments to stay open all through the night in view of safety concerns. They also cite lack of safe public transport at night-time.

Issues faced by women

Twenty-five-year-old Prakruthi R. waits for about 15 to 20 minutes every day at the Shivajinagar bus stand between 8.30 p.m. and 9 p.m. after work to catch a bus that goes towards Hebbal. Once the bus arrives, she is tasked with finding her way inside the bus among 20-30 other passengers who are eager to get a seat. Even though she chooses to board the bus from the door on the women's side, the pushing and pulling are relentless in the night hours. "As there are fewer buses at this time, people are cramped up in the ones that are available. Even though there are separate sections for men and women, in a crowded bus, it does not work like that. We have to deal with men sometimes leaning or falling on us and the conductor pushing his way through a group of women, which makes many of us feel uncomfortable," Ms. Prakruthi said.

Just like her, many other women who travel by BMTC buses after 8.30 p.m. deal with multiple problems that come with the poor frequency of services. While starting points such as Shivajinagar or Kempegowda Bus Terminal might be safer for longer waits, given that the premises are always busy, waiting at bus stops where there are no shelters or sometimes not even street lights keeps women on their toes.

"Hebbal is a busy area but after 9 p.m. there are only a few women at the bus stop opposite the police station. While I wait there for 20 minutes or even more to catch a bus that goes towards Doddaballapur road, I have sometimes been catcalled by strangers and repeatedly persuaded by conductors of private buses to get aboard (even after telling them that I do not want to get into a private bus). Even at such a busy place, I have felt unsafe many times during the night hours," said Jyothsna K., a private company professional in the city.

She added, "At the CRPF bus stop where I get off, there is nothing except for a bench. As this is not a stop where many people get off, there is not even basic signage in place. The drivers sometimes do not even stop the bus completely and I am forced to get off a slow-moving bus."

Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation

Fleet size
6,767

Number of schedules operated
5,563

Number of trips per day
54,429

Daily commuters
30 lakh

> The government should think of making the public transport system more robust and safer instead of focusing only on major infrastructure projects.
> **PRANEETHA,** a commuter

BMTC shifts

	Day out		Night out	General shift	Night services
First shift	6 a.m. to 2 p.m.		2 p.m. to 2 p.m. (next day)	8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 p.m. to 6 a.m.
Second shift	2 p.m. to 10 p.m.				
Number of schedules		521	2,615	2,368	59

At the mercy of auto and taxi drivers

The lack of feeder bus services from Namma Metro stations at night remains a concern for many passengers. "I usually take the metro up to Indiranagar to go to Vigyan Nagar as there are no feeder services or regular buses from S.V. Road metro station or Baiyappanahalli station to my area. If I reach after 9 p.m., I am at the mercy of auto or taxi drivers. I once reached at 9.30 p.m. and stood there till 10.30 p.m. It was a harrowing experience because there are no buses to other areas also and we are just stuck at the bus stop so late in the night. Even though the population has exploded in areas around where I stay, the bus frequency is as pathetic as it used to be 10 years ago, especially late at night. How should people who do not work 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. travel if public transport so blatantly refuses to cater to them? Bengaluru is a booming city with so many types of industries and service sectors. The government should be thinking of making the public transport system more robust and safer instead of focusing only on major infrastructure projects. This will even help reduce traffic to a large extent," said Praneetha.

No awareness about bus tracking app

After missing several deadlines, the BMTC recently launched the app, 'Namma BMTC'. It helps passengers to live track buses and plan their travel. However, not many commuters are aware of this app yet.

"When Tummoc (a ticketing app) was launched, they put up QR codes in buses which led many of us to ask and find out what it was. But nothing of the sort has been done for this app. I was not even aware that we could track buses. Being able to know when the bus will reach our stop will help us plan our journey and reach the stop a few minutes before that to avoid a lot of hassle," said Ms. Prakruthi when asked about the new app.

Problems of bus crew

It is not just bus passengers but even BMTC bus crew say reaching home is a problem after completing their shift.

Rekha (name changed), who works as a conductor, reaches home at about 11.30 p.m. after a tiring shift. She said, "I have been working on the Shivajinagar-Banashankari route for the last two years. It's a difficult job, but I have been managing it somehow. There are no issues related to safety and the BMTC does not allow women conductors to work in midnight shifts. Every day, after my shift ends around 10 p.m., I have to go to the depot to deposit cash at the collection counter. This takes time and I reach home around 11.30 p.m. My family is worried till I reach home."

Apart from the safety issue, women conductors face a lot of other problems, including the lack of proper washrooms at bus stations and at the Traffic Transit Management Centres (TTMC). "The washrooms at bus stands are not in good shape. Everyone says that we should drink more water for good health, but how can we do that in such a scenario? I do not drink enough water so as to avoid using the dirty washrooms at the TTMC or bus station," said Lakshmi (name changed), a conductor.

Meanwhile, male staff members who start their work early in the morning have their own set of problems. Vijaya Kumar (name changed) has to start his duty at 4 a.m. from Majestic bus station towards Jigani. He usually goes to the depot the previous night and stays there till 4 a.m. "I have very little time with my family since I have to rush back to the depot to start my shift early in the morning. There are no bus services after midnight and I can't reach the depot early in the morning. So I come the previous night, sleep in the depot and start duty."

Many rely on private vehicles

The absence of night service buses has forced people to rely on private maxi cabs and vans in several parts of the city. Those who work in unorganised sectors are forced to pay hefty fares to travel in these vehicles that illegally ferry passengers. At several locations in the city, including Banashankari, Goraguntepalya, Silk Board, Hebbal, K.R. Market, Hosur Road, and Tin Factory, people waiting for buses often end up travelling by such private vehicles.

Chikkatayamma, a vegetable vendor from Ullal Upanagara who was waiting for a bus at K.R. Market, said, "It is difficult to get a bus after 9.30 p.m. Not all people cannot afford to go in an autorickshaw or private transport. I request the authorities to run more buses for the benefit of the common people."

Kumar, driver of a private van who usually waits for passengers near Banashankari bus stand, said, "I provide cab service to a private firm at Electronics City and I reside at Laggere. On the way back home, I pick up passengers who look for a drop. A good number of people use private vehicles at night to reach home."

An official of the BMTC said the corporation has been regularly writing to the Police and Transport departments to initiate action against private operators for ferrying passengers.

Long wait: People at a bus stop at night at K.R. Market in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Melody makers (Clockwise from right) Gerard Machado; Jagdeesh MR; Baer Traa; Radha Thomas, Susanne Alt; Sven Rozier; the Suvankar Ghosh Trio; (below) Lucas Santana. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Get jazzed up

It is International Jazz Day this weekend and the city gears up to celebrate it with world-class musicians this season

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

It is that time of year again when jazz aficionados try to catch the best shows in town and amateurs attempt to capture the nuanced timbre synonymous with this sound. As in the past, this weekend too, will see Bengaluru play host to home-grown talent as well as foreign artistes.

The Bangalore International Centre (BIC) is taking the initiative to introduce the present generation to this form of music. Often considered an acquired taste, a special concert for children on April 28, featuring the Lucas Santana Brazilian Experience, will be an eye-opener to this genre.

For a chunk of the following day, BIC in collaboration with the Bangalore School of Music (BSM), will present some best-known and upcoming talents. Post noon till well into the evening, jazz lovers can pace themselves on a steady stream of melody. Apart from the Jazz Revival by Thomas Chandy, the Joey Sharma band, students of BSM and others performing on that day, is the Sunshine Orchestra Brass Ensemble from the AR Rahman Foundation, Chennai.

Conducted by Lisa Sarasini from the United Kingdom, the Sunshine Orchestra consists of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds who have an aptitude for music. According to Jagadeesh MR, director and head of jazz at BSM, "There is no barrier to appreciating or mastering any art form – it can be understood by anyone. Jazz comes from the most impoverished of backgrounds, with roots in the painful era of slavery. From there, it has flourished and it still continues to evolve today."

It certainly has. Emanating from the mists of pain in New Orleans, jazz has reached far-flung corners of the globe such as Indonesia, Switzerland and Australia. This year, artistes from Germany, South Korea and Serbia are part of Banyan Tree's World Jazz Festival in Bengaluru. To be held on April 28 at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, this is the third edition of the World Jazz Festival,enthralling audiences in Delhi, Pune, Dehradun and Mumbai.

Launched in 2020, the aim of Mumbai-based Banyan Tree's World Jazz Festival was to bring world-class jazz to India, says Nandini Mahesh, one of its directors. Following the success of their debut performance in Bengaluru last year, their lineup this time comprises the Sven Rozier Quintet from South Korea featuring Lizzy Ossevoort and Baer Traa from the Netherlands, as well as the Susanne Alt band from Germany and the Lucas Santana Quintet of the Brazilian Experience.

Nandini and her husband Mahesh Babu, who curated the show, believe improvisation plays as huge a part in Indian classical music as it does in jazz, making them a great playground for fusion.

"It is fascinating to see these artistes transcend musical boundaries and have collaborative presentations," she says.

Indian classical musicians such as Akshay Ganesh will be joining the foreign artistes in a fusion ensemble too.

"When you decide to become a musician, it is either all or nothing. Music is a lifelong passion and these artistes live by a total dedication to their craft," says Nandini.

The second edition of the Bengaluru Jazz Habba will be held at the Koramangala Club on April 30. Apart from performances by the Rajeev Raja Jazz Combine from Mumbai, the Rex Rozario Quintet and the Gerard Machado Trio, jazz workshops will be held as well.

For Jagdeesh, the most important thing about jazz is, "its message of universal peace and an openness to embrace all cultures by fostering creativity and goodwill".

That definitely is what this weekend will bring to Bengaluru.

Entry free for events at BIC; tickets for World Jazz Festival on bookmyshow; for Jazz Habba log on to https://sabhankosh.co/product/bengaluru-jazz-habba/

Street art takes on a new form

Walk Through the City, a solo show by Hyderabad-based artist Maredu Ramu, is currently underway in the city

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

"There's nothing mysterious about my work. I paint what the common man will understand – scenes from day-to-day life – which I capture by observing my surroundings," says Hyderabad-based artist Maredu Ramu. "Like most artists, I am influenced and inspired by my surroundings."

A picture is worth a thousand words and Maredu's paintings negate the need for elaboration. In every piece, one can see Nature striving with civilisation – trees burst into bloom at drab construction sites, while brilliantly plumed birds perch on autorickshaws as man tries to make sense of the chaos he has created.

Cityscapes Artist Maredu Ramu and our world in decline. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Using bold brush strokes and bright colours, Maredu vividly captures the fading innocence of a world he once knew. "I began to notice the change in my surroundings; how the ancient rock landscape of Hyderabad was changing into a concrete jungle. This had an impact on me and I began to capture every instance of this encroachment in public places I would come across, with my work."

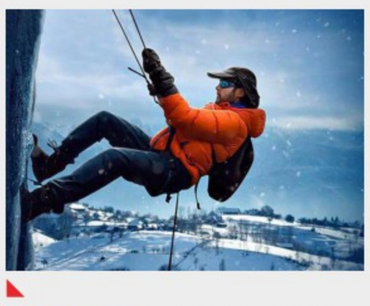
Hailing from an agricultural family in Peddapalli in Telangana, Maredu says he was not too academically inclined as a child. "I was only interested in drawing," he laughs, adding that it was his art teacher who saw beyond his doodling and encouraged him to take up Art for his higher studies.

As a full-time artist constantly documenting his surroundings, Maredu says his travels to cities such as Bengaluru are an eyeopener to the effects of globalisation. "It's not just Hyderabad, it is true of any city; wherever you go greenery is shrinking and the chirping of birds is lost, replaced by sounds of the city."

Twenty-two canvases, ranging in size from 1x1 to 3x3 feet, are part of Walk Through the City and will be on display at MKF Museum of Art till April 30.

Vertical limit

Kovid Mittal talks of his films documenting his conquest of Mt Everest



Uphill journey The poster of *At 23000 Ft.* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shilpa Anandraj
shilpa.anandraj@thehindu.co.in

Bengaluru-based engineer, Kovid Mittal, has made two documentaries on climbing Mt Everest - *Black Peak* (2021) and *At 23000 Ft*. The latter is scheduled for a digital release in May 2023, while the first one is currently streaming on Amazon Prime.

Kovid is an actor, model, producer and writer, who has written the screenplay of both his documentaries. *At 23000 ft*, is backed by the Government of Karnataka. Kovid says the film talks about life at high altitudes, the preparations and challenges of mountaineering, which are "intense".

There are many misconceptions about climbing Everest, says Kovid. "It is not all snow nor does it feel like heaven up there. By the time you reach base camp, you are already working with half your energy as the temperature and oxygen levels are low. Budgets for such trips are steep and the dangers of encountering death is high."

Making the right moves

The Bangalore Chess Club aims to make the game of kings an enjoyable past time for all

N Sudarshan
sudarshan.narayanan@thehindu.co.in

Amey Sirdeshpande, 16, got hooked to chess largely because of Samay Raina's online streams.

Raina, a stand-up comic and chess enthusiast, was one of COVID-19 lockdown's greatest hits, with his YouTube channel becoming a rage. Laced with comedy and banter, it helped the game shed its studious image and appeal to an audience beyond the sport's traditional fraternity.

Second guessing Enthusiasts at a Bangalore Chess Club event. N SUDARSHAN

The Bangalore Chess Club (BCC) is trying something similar – a dedicated set of volunteers led by techie Tarun Mittal have been organising chess matches at Lahe Lahe, a cultural and community hub and café in Indiranagar, twice a month.

The setting is informal, with players cutting across all age groups revelling in an environment that is far removed from the cut-throat world of competitive chess.

Generally considered rude to talk while others are playing, the atmosphere here is chatty but not loud. There are no referees, players keep their own time and are guaranteed seven rounds (Blitz format).

"We don't target those who are serious about chess, but rather those who are flirting with the game," says Tarun. "The value we are assigning here is very low. We are not rewarding the winners, but give lucky draw prizes in the end. So people are not really competing."

The idea to start a chess club was born in 2015 when Manish Simon, an architect from Bengaluru who has since moved to Berlin, put out a post on Meetup asking those interested in playing chess to come to Freedom Park.

Around five or six people turned up and it gradually grew from there. BCC now averages 100 people per event, with a promise of more.

In the last 18 months, BCC has organised public events at Cubbon Park and on MG Road to appeal to a wider section of society.

"Returns are hard and most of the help we receive is in kind," explains Tarun. "Chess.com gives prizes in the form of memberships. StonKraft is giving us the boards and we charge a small ₹100 entry fee. It is a community building-activity, not a money-spinning exercise."

STEPOUT

Bookworm alert

Atta Galatta presents Word Wings, in collaboration with Sarsayee Foundation for Theatre and Education.
The evening will feature a book discussion by Padmavati Rao. It is a platform to exchange ideas and opinions by delving into books. Tickets costing ₹100 are on BookMyShow. *On April 29, 5.30pm at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar.*

Crafts galore

The Grand Rajasthani exhibition, which is on at Banashankari Mahila Samaja, features a range of handlooms, jewellery, home decor and more. There will also be handicrafts like Madhubani and Pattachitra paintings, dhurries and marble crafts.
On till April 30, 10am to 8.30pm. Call 8951899961/9482959786

Adventure on a plate

Cantan, Chinese Bar House, part of The Olive Group, presents an exclusive summer menu. From mango passion cocktail, zingy watermelon ginger gin and tonic to cheese and truffle, pokchoy wrapped lamb, you will be spoilt for choice.
For lunch and dinner at Cantan, Lavelle Road.

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Modi dubs 'guarantees' by Congress as 'revdi culture'; DKS hits back

Centre's welfare programmes can reach people better with a BJP govt. in State too, says PM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attacked "guarantees" given by the Congress ahead of Assembly elections as "revdi culture" that will "submerge the State in debt".

The Congress soon hit back reminding Mr. Modi of the schemes of his government and the "promise to put ₹15 lakh in every citizen's account" during the 2014 elections.

Mr. Modi said, at an event addressing party workers from Karnataka online: "A country cannot be run like this taking shortcuts. Revdi culture is essentially eating away the resources of future generations. The BJP thinks for the next 25 years and doesn't take shortcuts."

However, he was quick to add that "whenever necessary", the party also provides assistance to people like free vaccines and free ration during the pandemic. He also mentioned PM Kisan Samman Nidhi under which farmers of the country are being given a direct cash transfer of ₹6,000 annually.

The Opposition Congress has issued "guarantee" cards signed by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar promising 200 units of free power to every household, 10 kg of free rice, monthly direct cash transfers of ₹2,000 to women heading households, and ₹3,000 to unemployed youth, if it comes to power.

BJP members listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address through videoconferencing at the party State office in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The warranty period of the Congress is already over, what guarantee can it give?" Mr. Modi questioned. The PM said he would give a "guarantee" of "development at speed and scale to ensure a developed Karnataka plays a key role in a developed India" over the next 25 years.

Mr. Shivakumar soon hit back at Mr. Modi saying his statements betrayed desperation that the BJP would lose.

"We haven't promised to put ₹15 lakh into every citizen's account like the BJP. If one sees BJP's manifesto, they had promised to waive farm loans till ₹1 lakh. If one sees all advertisements the Basavaraj Bommai government has given to newspapers from January 16, they have also promised assistance to women. Mr. Modi need not worry as to how to implement our promises, as his party won't come to power," he said.

'Double-engine sarkar'

Mr. Modi argued that a "double engine sarkar" was necessary for "better development" of the State. "We have seen that the Union government's welfare programmes reach the people when there is a BJP government in the State, too. For instance, while the Union government provides ₹6,000 direct cash transfer to farmers annually, the Karnataka government has made an additional contribution of ₹4,000. Thus, farmers in Karnataka get a total of ₹10,000. This is the best example of how a double-engine sarkar works," he argued.

He contended that in States ruled by Opposition parties, many schemes are being stymied, their names changed as the leaders are "scared that Modi will become popular." "If you have a government always fighting with the Union government, development of the State will be hit," he said.

According to the party, about 67 lakh workers participated in the online programme.

In fifth poll promise, Rahul announces free travel for women in public buses

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday announced free travel for women in public transport buses across the State from the very first day of its government, as the fifth poll promise ("guarantee") of the party. This came on the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi mocked the the "guarantees" as "revdi".

Addressing a public meeting in Mangaluru, Mr. Gandhi said the Congress was committed to implement its poll promises - Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyothi, Anna Bhagya, Yuva Bhagya, and free travel for women. On the other hand, Mr. Modi has failed to fulfil promises of depositing ₹15 lakh in everyone's bank account, fighting corruption, and creating two crore jobs annually, he said.

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and D.K. Shivakumar at a rally in Mangaluru on Thursday. H.S. MANJUNATH

Poser to PM

Shooting a poser, Mr. Gandhi said: "Mr. Modi, we will implement all these poll promises in Karnataka in the first Cabinet meeting of the government's first day in office. Will you honour your promises thereafter at least across the country?" The Congress is committed to eliminate 40% corruption thereby providing funds for poll promises.

Mr. Gandhi said that when he spoke against corruption and sought to know the relationship between Mr. Modi and Mr. Adani in the Lok Sabha, his mike was switched off first and later, he was disqualified as an MP. "Mr. Modi, do you not see that people flanking you on stages in Karnataka are steeped in corruption when you speak against corruption?" Mr. Gandhi asked.

'Chori karne ki aadat'

Mr. Gandhi earlier said stealing has been the habit of BJP (Chori Karna Inki Aadat Hai). "It steals the government, MLAs, sugar factories, contractors, and what not," he said.

He told the audience: "This government was not elected by your votes. BJP bought MLAs from money earned through corruption. They stole your government."

The Congress is going to sweep the Assembly elections this time by winning 150 seats. "Give BJP 40 seats in recognition of its 40% commission government," Mr. Gandhi said.

Mr. Gandhi further alleged that a BJP MLA himself claimed that the Chief Minister's post in Karnataka could be bought for ₹2,500 crore. It was bought once and now they know the exact value of the post.

There was double whammy for Karnataka people – corruption and steep price rise. MSMEs were ruined by GST while demonetisation snatched money from the poor. While 1% of population holds 40% of country's wealth, 40 crore people slipped below poverty line across the country, he said.

During his interaction with fishermen later, Mr. Gandhi said: "I am committing only those that can be done. We have studied in detail where the money will come from for fulfilling the guarantees and promises. That is why I am telling with confidence," he said.

Cong. seeks FIRs against Amit Shah, Somanna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress leaders have petitioned the police against Union Home Minister Amit Shah for allegedly saying that 'if the Indian National Congress wins the upcoming elections, then Karnataka will be afflicted with communal riots', and thereby attempting to disrupt communal harmony in the State.

They requested that 'an urgent and immediate FIR be lodged against Mr. Shah and the other individuals for committing offences'.

In the complaint to the High Ground police in Bengaluru on Thursday, Congress general secretary incharge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, and former KPCC president G. Parameshwara accused BJP leaders of making provocative statements, promoting enmity, hatred and ill-will between groups and classes, at a rally in Vijayapura and other locations in Karnataka on April 25.

They alleged that BJP leaders made 'deliberate false statements, threatening electors to vote in favour of BJP, and maligning the Opposition Congress by attributing completely false motive to Congress and its leadership'.

The other complaint was against Housing Minister V. Somanna, who is the BJP candidate in Varuna and Chamarajanagar constituencies. He is accused of trying to offer a bribe to Mallikarjuna Swamy alias Aluru Mallu, a candidate of the JD(S) party in Chamarajanagar constituency.

₹10 lakh bond, govt. job sought for those marrying farmers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) has released its "manifesto" for the Assembly elections that among other things has sought a ₹10 lakh bond and government job to women marrying farm youth in the wake of concerns that they are not getting alliances.

The manifesto also seeks formation of Debt Clearance Commission for clearing farm debts and Farmers' Income Commission to ensure minimum income guarantee to farm families.

Social problem

The manifesto, which was released by noted agricultural economist T.N. Prakash Kammaradi, in the presence of KRRS president Badagalapura Nagendra and other office-bearers in Bengaluru on Thursday, says that the State is facing a "social problem" of farm youth not finding brides irrespective of whether they have big or small land holding.

The manifesto says that a survey conducted across the State during COVID days had showed that 50% of farm youth were not interested in continuing with farming. It has demanded a commitment from the State government that it would not merge Nandini with Gujarat's Amul. It has sought constitutional status to MSPs and industrial status to agriculture.

JD(S) promises ₹2L to women who choose farmers as life partners

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Incentive of ₹2 lakh for women marrying youth from farming community, up to ₹25 lakh assistance for those suffering from rare diseases, restoring 4% reservation for Muslims, and implementation of Justice Sadashiva Commission on internal reservation are among the poll promises made by the Janata Dal (Secular) in its election manifesto released on Thursday.

Among the main political parties, JD(S) was the first to release a manifesto.

Promising to increase the financial incentive to milk producer by ₹2 per litre, the party said it will take steps to strengthen the Karnataka Milk Federation in the light of Amul's entry to protect the State's identity.

The party has also promised establishment of an amusement park in Mysuru in collaboration with Disney World. It has also announced setting aside ₹10,000 crore annually to complete the irrigation works in Upper Krishna, and work to get clearances to implement Upper Bhadra, Mekedatu, Mahadayi, and Yettinahole projects.

Committing to protecting languages in Karnataka and preserving culture, the election manifesto, drafted by a committee headed by MLC B.M. Farooq, has covered its promises in nine broad themes, including its Pancharatna programme that covers education, health, agriculture, housing, and youth and women empowerment.

Reiterating some of the welfare measures announced earlier as part of Pancharatna yatre for social security, the party has committed to five free LPG cylinders annually and increase in the honorarium of anganwadi workers besides, confirming their services. It has also said reiterated the loan waiver scheme for women self help groups, increase in widow pension, and financial assistance to pregnant women.

It has also said that ₹2,000 monthly assistance will be given to auto drivers, ₹2,000 monthly assistance to 36,000 farm labourer families, ₹2,000 monthly assistance to security guards, increase in senior citizen pension, and increased stipend for newly registered lawyers and artists.

For minorities

Announcing that 5% of the total budget allocation would be set aside for development of religious minorities, the JD(S) has also promised setting up of fast track courts to try those indulging in communal hate. It has also said that the party is committed to restore 4% reservation to Muslims under OBC quota that has been scrapped now.

In its response to the agitation by government workers who are under National Pension Scheme, the party has said that a new scheme will be worked out, taking the best practises in both NPS and definitive pension scheme. The party has also promised to streamline distribution of sanitary napkins since its distribution has not been satisfactory in the past three years.

The party has charted industrial developments at district and taluk levels and promised investments of over ₹9,000 crore. The JD(S) will also work towards making panchayat raj institutions and urban local bodies autonomous and financially self reliant.

What Janata Dal (S) manifesto says

- 4% reservation for Muslims under OBC quota to be restored
- Fast-track courts to try those spreading communal hatred
- 5% of the budgetary allocation to be set aside for welfare of religious minorities
- Implementation of A.J. Sadashiva Commission report on internal reservation among SCs
- ₹2 lakh incentive for women marrying youth from farming community
- ₹25 lakh assistance for those suffering from rare diseases
- Increase in financial incentive by ₹2 per litre to milk producers
- Amusement park at Mysuru to be established in collaboration with Disney World
- ₹10,000 crore annually to complete Upper Krishna project
- Five free cylinders per year
- Loans of women self-help groups to be waived
- A new pension scheme taking the best from OPS and NPS will be devised for government workers

Pramod Muthalik tries his luck in fight between BJP and Cong. in Karkala

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

Karkala in Udupi district assumes significance as the BJP in its erstwhile avatar as the Bharatiya Jan Sangh opened its first account in coastal Karnataka in this constituency in 1967 elections. After the Congress took over the constituency in the election which followed in 1972, the BJP could snatch it back only after a gap of more than three decades, in 2004.

Now, two hardcore "Hindutva" candidates, including from the BJP, are facing each other amid a novice Congress candidate in the fray.

In the constituency, founder of Hindutva outfit Sri Rama Sene Pramod Muthalik is taking on Minister for Energy, Kannada and Culture and incumbent three-time BJP MLA V. Sunil Kumar whose routes were in the Bajrang Dal. Mr. Muthalik is contesting as an Independent while the Congress has fielded Muniyal Uday Kumar Shetty, an entrepreneur and contractor.

The Congress which snatched the seat from the Jan Sangh retained it till 1999 (seven elections). It was former Congress Chief Minister M. Veerappa Moily who bagged the seat in 1972. It was Mr. Kumar who as the BJP candidate snatched the seat again from the Congress in 2004. He lost the next election in 2008 to the Congress and made it to the Assembly again in the next two elections (2013, 2018). When the BJP lost in all four of five Assembly segments in Udupi district in 2013 elections, Mr. Kumar was the only candidate who won from Karkala. When Mr. Kumar won the elections for the first time, he was the State convener of the Bajrang Dal.

It is said that Mr. Muthalik is among those who groomed Mr. Kumar, and the two are now fighting each other.

Mr. Muthalik, who was nowhere in the political scene of coastal belt, appeared suddenly in Udupi in this January and announced at a press conference that he will fight against "corrupt and anti-Hindu politicians" in Karkala. He said that he was unhappy with the way Mr. Kumar was treating Hindutva activists. Illegal cattle transportation and slaughtering are on the rise in Karkala constituency, he claimed, and appealed to the BJP to extend its support to his (Mr. Muthalik's) candidature by fielding Mr. Kumar from any other constituency.

Reacting to Mr. Muthalik's entry, the Minister in a series of tweets said that Mr. Muthalik has been lured by an "inducement" of money to contest. Mr. Kumar has been vocal that his priority for 'Hindutva' has not changed.

Meanwhile, the rank and file of the Congress rebelled against its candidate Mr. Shetty and questioned the basis of his selection. The president of Hebri Block Congress, who was also a former member of Udupi Zilla Panchayat, Manjunath Poojary, alleged that earlier Mr. Shetty was associated with BJP leaders. He alleged that in 2018 Assembly elections, Mr. Shetty had asked his followers to vote in favour of the BJP as he had not got ticket from the Congress then. Mr. Poojary, who was an aspirant for the Karkala ticket, said that a top KPCC leader "sold" the party tickets to some of the contesting candidates in the State.

Meanwhile, president of Udupi district unit of the BJP Kuyilady Suresh Nayak claimed that the Congress candidate had approached him thrice earlier with an intention to join the BJP, but he was not welcomed.

Karkala Assembly Constituency

Main candidates

V. Sunil Kumar (BJP)

Muniyal Uday Shetty (Congress)

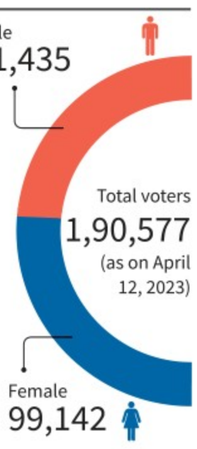
Pramod Muthalik (Ind.)

What people want

- Completion of Karkala Textile Park Project
- Spacious bus stand for government, private buses
- Bus stand in Hebri town, newly constituted headquarters of Hebri taluk
- Vegetable and meat markets
- Dredging of Aanekere waterbody in Karkala

History of the seat since 1952

BJP won thrice ■ Congress won nine times, Bharatiya Jana Sangha, Praja Socialist Party, and Congress I once each ■ Bharatiya Jana Sangha won for the first time in 1967 ■ BJP opened its account in 2004 when V. Sunil Kumar won ■ M. Veerappa Moily of Congress won six times ■ H. Gopal Bhandary of Congress won in 1999, 2008



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2013	V. Sunil Kumar (BJP)	65,039 49.85%	H. Gopal Bhandary (Congress)	60,785 46.59%	Walter D'Souza JD (S)	1,302 1%
2013	V. Sunil Kumar (BJP)	91,245 62.52%	H. Gopal Bhandary (Congress)	48,679 33.36%	Maksood Ahamed AIMEP *	1,817 1.25%

*AIMEP: All India Mahila Empowerment Party

INBRIEF

Attempt to be made to dart wild tusker in Idukki today

Arikompan, the wild elephant roaming through Santhanpara and Chinnakkanal in Idukki district, is slated to be darted and shifted to a new location early in the morning on Friday. Kottayam Divisional Forest Officer N. Rajesh said a meeting led by High Range Circle Chief Conservator of Forests Arun R.S. on Thursday at Chinnakkanal decided to conduct the operation on Friday. Section 144 would be imposed at certain places until the tusker is captured.

Telangana CM KCR cautions non-performing MLAs

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Thursday cautioned party legislators (MLAs) who were reported to be not working properly to strengthen the party in their constituencies, and those facing allegations of collecting money from beneficiaries of government schemes such as Dalit Bandhu and Double-Bedroom Houses, against getting re-nominated by party.

Ex-MP's murder: CBI quizzes kin of slain leader's assistant

The CBI team investigating the murder of former MP Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, on Thursday questioned the wife (Sujatha) and son (Rajesh) of Krishna Reddy, personal assistant to the slain leader, at his residence at Pulivendula in Andhra Pradesh. The CBI team was said to have gathered some information about Mr. Krishna Reddy's movements before and after the murder. They were also said to have spoken to staff at Loyola College, where Krishna Reddy is working.

No restraint on T.N. acting against online gaming firms

Acting Chief Justice T. Raja and Justice D. Bharatha Chakravarthy desist from passing any kind of interim order on a batch of writ petitions challenging the 2022 law against online gambling

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Thursday refused to restrain the Tamil Nadu government from taking any coercive action against online gaming companies until the disposal of a batch of cases filed by them challenging the constitutional validity of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Act, 2022.

Acting Chief Justice T. Raja and Justice D. Bharatha Chakravarthy desisted from passing any kind of interim orders in favour of the companies despite being told that they might have to shut shop if no interim protection was granted to them until the challenge to the new law was decided by the court.

Stating that a call on the issue could be taken only after ordering notice to the State government and granting time for filing a counter-affidavit, the first Division Bench asked Advocate-General R. Shunmugasundaram to ensure that the government's written response to the batch of cases was filed within six weeks.

During arguments, Senior Counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Gameskraft Technologies Private Limited of Bengaluru, said the Supreme Court as well as various High Courts had consistently differentiated between games of skill and games of chance, besides categorically holding that rummy was a game of skill.

Even with respect to a game like bridge, in which there was some amount of chance involved depending upon the cards that a player got, the courts had adopted the test of predominance to decide whether it could be categorised as a game of skill or that of chance. In such circumstances, how could the 2022 law ban online rummy, he wondered.

The senior counsel said the State could not be heard to say that rummy could be played offline but not online when it was much better and safer to play it online.

He also said playing the game with or without stakes would also hardly make any difference and termed any such distinction a red herring.

'No data'

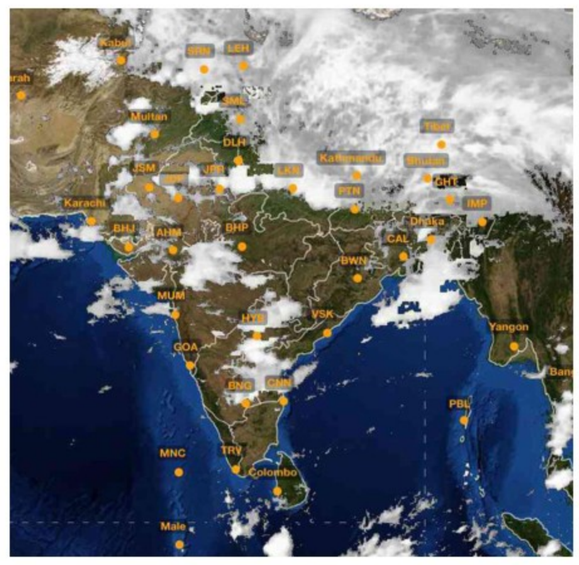
When the judges wanted to know why the State should not ban online gambling when it was found to be the root cause of several suicides, Mr. Singhvi said the government had not produced any data or study report to prove the claim of social evil but had made only some anecdotal comments.

Senior Counsel C. Aryama Sundaram, representing the All India Gaming Federation comprising 60 members, said the State government could bring in a law to prevent a social evil, provided it enjoyed the legislative competence to do so. In the present case, the subject was within the domain of the Centre and not the State, he argued.

Senior Counsel Kapil Sibal, representing the Tamil Nadu government, argued that the principle of occupied field would apply only to subjects found in List III (the Concurrent List) and not to matters that were exclusively in the domain of the State legislature. He said the intermediary rules framed by the Centre under the IT Act actually impinge upon the State's powers.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Odisha and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, central Maharashtra, interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	37.0	23.6	Kozhikode	0.3	36.8	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	38.7	25.8	Kurnool	—	38.2	26.3
Aizawl	—	35.0	15.6	Lucknow	—	36.2	22.5
Allahabad	—	38.4	23.6	Madurai	10	34.8	24.3
Bengaluru	—	33.5	23.2	Mangaluru	—	35.9	23.8
Bhopal	6.8	—	18.6	Mumbai	—	33.2	25.2
Bhubaneswar	—	37.3	25.5	Mysuru	—	36.2	—
Chandigarh	—	35.6	23.0	New Delhi	—	38.4	20.7
Chennai	—	35.8	26.8	Patna	—	34.7	23.2
Coimbatore	0.6	35.7	24.4	Port Blair	—	33.8	27.8
Dehradun	—	32.6	18.4	Puducherry	—	34.4	27.2
Gangtok	21	19.4	12.5	Pune	—	36.3	22.5
Goa	—	34.2	25.0	Raipur	—	37.0	24.4
Guwahati	11	33.8	20.7	Ranchi	—	30.6	22.0
Hubballi	—	37.0	22.0	Shillong	—	23.9	13.4
Hyderabad	0.1	32.7	24.0	Shimla	—	18.4	10.6
Imphal	—	31.9	18.4	Srinagar	40	17.2	7.0
Jaipur	—	36.2	21.7	Thiruvananthapuram	33	33.5	24.0
Kochi	10	33.4	25.2	Tiruchi	—	37.1	26.4
Kohima	—	24.6	18.5	Vijayawada	—	36.4	26.5
Kolkata	—	36.2	27.2	Visakhapatnam	—	34.4	27.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	4	2	.15	194	227	
Bengaluru	7	.41	.37	69	90	
Chennai	2	.88	105	114	96	
Delhi	.28	143	.65	237	237	
Hyderabad	7	.24	.39	99	137	
Kolkata	.10	.11	.21	62	66	
Lucknow	.15	.56	.39	152	161	
Mumbai	.27	.8	.51	116	97	
Pune	.16	.27	.44	206	157	
Visakhapatnam	.19	.38	.76	70	92	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 374 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ED searches premises of Tangedco and SIC officials

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has said that it had searched 10 premises in Chennai on April 24 belonging to officials of the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) and the South India Corporation (SIC), a group company of the Chettinad Group.

The locations included the premises of the former Director of Coal (Tangedco) as well as key management personnel of the SIC and Western Agencies (Madras) private Limited.

According to a press release, the investigation was initiated based on an FIR registered by Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Chennai, for cheating the Tangedco of hundreds of crores by claiming excessive payments for coal transportation from the Visakhapatnam port. This loss for the State's power utility occurred between 2001 and 2019. Incriminating documents, and ₹360 crore that was lying as fixed deposits in the accounts of the SIC were seized.

Acute adulteration

Cause for concern: Pollutant froth gushing out of the Hussainsagar Lake in Hyderabad on Thursday. The water is contaminated by chemical, pharmaceutical, municipal and industrial pollutants. NAGARA GOPAL

KSE stops T.N. State song at campaign meet in Shivamogga

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa, on Thursday, stopped a Tamil Nadu state song being played as an invocation at a campaign meeting and insisted that the Kannada state song be played instead.

BJP's Tamil Nadu unit chief and co in-charge of party affairs in Karnataka K. Annamalai was on the dais at the meeting of Tamil people organised by Shivamogga unit of BJP in the city. When the programme commenced, an office bearer of the BJP announced that the Tamil Nadu State song would be played as an invocation. As the sound system operator began playing the song, it left Eshwarappa visibly disturbed.

Former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa and Tamil Nadu BJP chief K. Annamalai at a BJP campaign meeting in Shivamogga on Thursday. SATHISH G.T.

Takes exception

A few seconds later, the BJP leader intervened and instructed the organisers to stop the song midway, and insisted that the Karnataka State song be played instead. He also took exception to playing "some other song".

The BJP party candidate for Shivamogga S.N. Channabasappa and representatives of Tamil residents of Shivamogga were also present.

No issues with Annamalai: Palaniswami

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A day after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, AIADMK's general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Thursday said there were no issues between the party and BJP State president K. Annamalai, and the alliance between the two parties would continue.

Addressing reporters in Delhi on Thursday, Mr. Palaniswami questioned Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's silence over the two audio clips that purportedly contained the voice of Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan. "The allegations in the clip are serious," he said.

Kidney racket busted as donor complains he was not paid in full

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

A kidney racket was busted in Visakhapatnam when a person, who himself claimed to be the donor, lodged a complaint with the police late on Wednesday night.

In his complaint, G. Vinay, a resident of Vambay Colony, alleged that the accused had paid him only part of the money agreed upon for donating one of his kidneys.

Mr. Vinay further alleged that a person named Kamaraju, resident of the same area, had told him that he could earn huge amount by selling one of his kidneys.

Mr. Vinay also alleged that Kamaraju introduced him to a few others involved in the racket, and assured to pay him ₹8.5 lakh.

"While I was in hospital [after removal of kidney], Kamaraju and a few others went to my house and gave my family members only ₹2.5 lakh," Mr. Vinay alleged in his complaint.

Since his discharge from hospital, Mr. Vinay was said to be suffering some serious health issues.

"I am unable to walk. I am not able to perform my daily tasks," Mr. Vinay said.

'Hospital denies charge'

Meanwhile, district Collector A. Mallikarjuna ordered a probe into the issue.

"I visited the hospital in question, and it does not have the required approvals to perform surgeries," District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) P. Jagadeeswara Rao told *The Hindu*.

"The hospital management and the doctors have denied the allegation," he said. We would soon seize the hospital in Pendurthi, he added. "I have also examined Mr. Vinay. He seems to be weak. We have offered to shift him to King George Hospital."

Meanwhile, it was learnt that the police picked up a few suspects, including the doctor who allegedly performed the surgery.

In 2018, a hospital at Maharanipeta was found to be performing illegal organ transplantation for ₹12 lakh.

Kochi Water Metro project to improve islanders' socio-economic condition and boost tourism

John L. Paul
KOCHI

The ₹1,136-crore Kochi Water Metro project that Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched remotely from Thiruvananthapuram on April 25 will see a fleet of 78 air-conditioned electric-hybrid ferries providing waterway connectivity, from locales in the mainland to 10 islands that are spread over backwaters in the Greater Kochi area.

The project was envisaged in 2014 as the waterway extension of the Kochi Metro to provide metro rail-like comfort, reliability and safety to approximately one lakh islanders. Once all the ferries roll out, the Water Metro is expected to catapult Kochi to the league of select few global cities which have an integrated control system to monitor such a big fleet of ferries. Eight ferries have begun operating on two routes - High Court-Vypeen and Vyttila-Kakkanad - at frequent intervals.

Floating beauty: Kochi Water Metro's battery-operated electric hybrid boat on the High Court-Vypeen route. THULASI KAKKAT

Although the primary aim of the project was to establish sustainable water transport connectivity from the mainland to the islands, officials of Kochi Water Metro Limited (KWML), are banking hope on the ferries also boosting the hitherto untapped tourism potential of the islands. Direct waterway connectivity to the mainland and arrival of tourists will in turn improve the socio-economic condition of the islanders, they say.

The modern ferry project is being seen as yet another crown on Kerala, which is recognised globally as among the must-see destinations. Once all the 78 ferries are ready, they will link 38 terminals spread over 15 routes in a 76-km waterway corridor. The 100-passenger capacity ferries can attain 8 knots (15 kmph) speed in battery mode and 10 knots (18 kmph) speed in hybrid mode.

Global award

The launch of the project was delayed by over two years owing to hassles in importing components during the pandemic.

During this time, the electric hybrid ferries went on to win the iconic Gussies Electric Boat Award-2022 in the commercial ferry category. The award was instituted in memory of Gustave Trouve, a French electrical engineer .

The project, which is expected to lessen carbon emissions by 44,000 tonnes every year, is being funded by the Kerala government, mainly through a ₹908.76-crore loan availed from German lending agency KfW.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said recently that the project could be emulated in at least 40 cities in India which has abundant waterways.

Mindless violence

The Maoist attack in south Bastar is reflective of the group's potency

Less than two years ago, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah had told leaders and representatives of various States that the influence of the Maoists had reduced from 96 districts in 10 States in 2010 to just 41 by late 2021. Close observers of the Maoist insurgency had warned that despite the Maoists' decline, they were still active in South Bastar, the Andhra-Odisha border or in some districts in Jharkhand. The killing on Wednesday of a District Reserve Guard team of the Chhattisgarh police in a powerful IED blast followed by gunfire is reflective of the threat still posed by Maoists in the south Bastar region. The fact that these 10 personnel were returning from a counter-insurgency operation that they had conducted after a tip-off indicates that the Maoist attacks could have been a trap and points to a possible intelligence failure. With the Maoists known to ramp up attacks on security forces before the onset of the monsoon season, the killings suggest a failure in anticipating such an attack. It is incumbent upon the government to investigate the incident, plug security loopholes, find out the Maoist cadre responsible for the attack and to bring them to justice. But it is a task that is easier said than done as this is tough terrain in a region which could be the last stronghold of the Maoists.

The inability of the Maoists to graduate beyond a violent guerrilla-based movement that utilises the remote and inaccessible forested terrain of central India, and home to tribal communities, is largely because of their incoherent and outdated ideology that has found few takers even among the most marginalised of communities. Diligent security actions have certainly curbed their presence outside their stronghold even as the responsiveness and penetration of the Indian state into areas where governmental sway was hitherto absent, has had a mitigatory effect. Yet, it is not just the terrain and topography that have acted as the obstacles in defeating the Maoists in south Bastar. The alienation of a section of tribals caught in the crossfire between security forces and the Maoists has allowed the Maoists to tap into discontent and to retain a presence in the area. In the years of counter-insurgency, hard-edged strategies of creating wedges among the tribal population to defeat the Maoists have been counter-productive. The government must continue to try to win the support and confidence of the tribal people of south Bastar as that is the surest way of defeating the Maoist movement. Any military action that is hastily put together for retribution and which could target innocent tribals will only exacerbate the problem.

Killer mafia

There must be zero tolerance of illegal sand quarrying in Tamil Nadu

The gruesome murder of Lourdhu Francis, a Village Administrative Officer (VAO) in Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu, on Tuesday – he was in his office – is a reminder of the lengths to which the sand mafia will go to protect its lucrative activities involving illegal quarrying. The official had been informing the police and his superiors about mafia operations. This is not the first such case in Tamil Nadu. Five years ago, in neighbouring Tirunelveli, a 33-year-old police constable was brutally murdered by the sand mafia when he was about to arrest the culprits who had mined river sand from the Nambiyar. The State has had a long history of attacks on public servants who have sought to enforce the rules governing sand quarrying and book wrongdoers. Over 25 years ago, the then District Collector of Tiruvallur, Jayashree Raghunandan, nearly lost her life when leading a raid on illegal quarrying; the driver of a lorry was arrested on charges of attempting to kill her. The killing of a Deputy Tahsildar near Chengalpattu, in December 2004, is another case. Both the Madras High Court and the Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal have, on many occasions, sought to address the issue of illegal sand quarrying and mining. In October 2013, after the High Court came down on the administration of Kancheepuram district (near Chennai), over alleged illegal quarrying, the State government went to the extent of suspending the Collector. Over the past five to six years, the government's launching of measures such as online system of booking of sand and payment (with plans to fine tune technology applications in this regard) as well as the unveiling of a policy document on "M-sand" (or manufactured sand, as an alternative to river sand), in March this year, are steps that have hardly stopped illegal sand quarrying.

What is critical is that the government should send a strong message: of its zero tolerance towards illegal sand quarrying. Unless this is done in unequivocal terms, any other move to tone up the system will fall short. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin ordering ₹1 crore as solatium and the appointment of a member of the VAO's family in government service on compassionate grounds should be of some comfort to the family, but the government should apprehend the killers and ensure their conviction expeditiously. At the same time, the government should ponder over the efficacy of the existing system concerning the sale and use of river sand. It also needs to strengthen the regulatory mechanism. The authorities would do well to promote research on the production and quality of M-sand. Regardless of any other steps it takes, the government should not give room for any more murderous violence in the State.

Not by 'Vande Bharat' alone

K. Balakesari

belonging to the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers, was Member Staff, Railway Board

There is a touch of wry irony in the fact that today most of the news about the Indian Railways concerns Vande Bharat trains, and more particularly the fact that every new Vande Bharat train is being personally flagged off by the Prime Minister. For, a little over four years ago, the launch of Train 18, the precursor to the Vande Bharat train, was heralded by the initiation of vigilance investigations against some of the top architects of the project on wholly specious grounds.

The Train 18 project was one that was wholly conceived, planned and executed with élan in record time, by a team of inspired, talented and committed Railway professionals of the Integral Coach Factory, Perambur, Chennai, with minimum official support. Thankfully, the witch hunt came to naught. Today it seems it is raining Vande Bharat trains all over the country, a unique example of the success of a purely local initiative driving policy at the highest level.

Amid the publicity blitz and euphoria surrounding the successive introduction of Vande Bharat trains, almost on a weekly basis in various parts of the country, it is easy to lose sight of the larger picture and the serious issues confronting the Indian Railways.

With the elimination of a separate Railway Budget and its merger with the General Budget from 2017 onwards, there has been a welcome shift towards ramping up investments in the Indian Railways, both through increased budgetary support from the General Exchequer and through institutional borrowings, aimed at creating additional rail transport capacity ahead of demand.

Needed, more relevant metrics

Accordingly, the Annual Plan outlay of the Indian Railways which was ₹1,09,935 crore in 2016-17 in the last separate Railway Budget has ballooned to ₹2,60,200 crore in the Budget for 2023-24, an increase of 137% While unprecedented levels of investment to build rail infrastructure are a welcome development, unless these investments translate into concrete progress towards capacity building, highlighting only the inputs without looking at the outcomes serves no purpose.

> The nation can ill-afford to let the performance of the Indian Railways, its prime transporter and its largest public undertaking, to be judged merely on the basis of certain and well-publicised services

Therefore, the performance of the Indian Railways needs to be evaluated using more relevant metrics.

This article will look at two areas (one each on the freight and the passenger fronts). The National Rail Plan 2030 (NRP) envisages raising the rail share in freight traffic *vis-à-vis* roadways from 27% to 45% by 2050 and the raising of the average speed of goods trains to 50 kilometres per hour from the present 25 kmph and concurrent reduction in tariff rates for freight by up to 30%. It may be mentioned that the rail share of freight carried reduced from 51.5.% in 2008-09 to 32.4% in 2018-19 for leads over 300 km.

Further, almost the entire increase in volume of traffic carried by rail over the decade 2008-09 to 2018-19 has been in short lead traffic (leads up to 300 km) and 55% of the increase was through the transport of just one commodity, *viz.* coal. As yet, there is no evidence of higher levels of traffic being achieved concurrently with diversification of commodities carried or an increase in rail share *vis-à-vis* road transport. In other words, in the race towards achieving the targets set in NRP 2030, the Indian Railways is at or near the starting block.

The subject of punctuality, other core issues

On the passenger front, perhaps the single most important operational index is punctuality. Here, a radical shift in emphasis is called for. If stations in the Indian Railways network can be remodelled to 'international standards', perhaps it is time to aim for international standards in punctuality of trains as well. Japanese Railways reckon the punctuality of their high speed trains in seconds. The Indian Railways should aim to be at least within five minutes (without any adjustment) of the scheduled time. While published statistics of punctuality usually are above 90%, these figures are arrived at with a dose of adjustment and only the destination arrival time is considered irrespective of the fact that a train might have been off schedule en route at all the important intermediate stations.

More than a decade ago, when an exercise was undertaken to plot the status of all passenger trains on the move in the Indian Railways network on real time basis, the punctuality of all passenger-carrying trains at any given time hovered around 60%.

It is high time to move away from the traditional concept of destination punctuality and evolve an index of punctuality that will also reflect the punctuality at select intermediate stations, at least for all mail/express trains. With developments in IT and data analytics, this should be possible. Real time punctuality of 90% should be a challenging target to aim for. The focus should be to improve overall passenger experience, not merely statistics.

These are only two examples. There is a vast range of issues such as financial performance, physical performance, safety, organisational/human resource issues, project execution, customer relations, effect of the dedicated freight corridors on the Indian Railways system capacity and so on that need to be critically analysed/reviewed and the necessary course corrections effected.

Have an annual report

Seven years ago, in the wake of the elimination of a separate Rail Budget, an article by this writer (*The Hindu*, "Railway Budget – a vanishing trick", September 22, 2016) had suggested that the government should consider tabling an annual report on the performance of the Railways in Parliament – on the lines of the annual Economic Survey prepared by the Finance Ministry ahead of the General Budget. This report, unlike a publicity pamphlet like the Indian Railways Year Book, should be an internal performance audit that should serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, serious students and also researchers in the field of rail transport.

No government or organisation would willingly submit itself to such a self-analysis in the public domain. But with the huge sums already invested, and proposed to be invested in the future in the rail sector, the nation can ill-afford to let the performance of its prime transporter and its largest public undertaking to be judged merely on the basis of the number of Vande Bharat trains introduced, the glitz and opulence of its remodelled stations or the record-breaking length of its railway station platforms.

Darwin must stay in Indian school textbooks

Sayantan Datta

is a science journalist

In 2018, the then Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Satyapal Singh, called Darwin's theory of evolution "scientifically wrong" and asked that it be removed from Indian school and college curricula. The next year, the Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University, Nageswara Rao Gollapalli, made a claim at the 106th Indian Science Congress, that the "theory of Dashavatara" explains evolution better than Darwin's theory.

Both instances spurred sufficient controversy. However, little did we know that Mr. Singh's statement also demonstrated clairvoyance.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) dropped Darwin's theory from the examination syllabus for Class 9 and 10 students in the academic year 2021-22. In a development this year, the NCERT has now dropped the entire section on evolution from its Class 10 textbooks.

Need for Darwin's theory, teaching change

Scientists and educators across the country are understandably disappointed. As one of the most firmly established theories in science, Darwin's theory not only explains the origin of human beings (and all other forms of life in the world), but also rescues this explanation from the belief that an 'intelligent designer' (read: god) built them the way they are and put them in their place. Depriving students of this information, especially those who do not take up biology after Class 10 is, as dissenting scientists and educators have pointed out, "dangerous".

Our approach to teaching Darwin's theory has been, largely, to tell students a story of a lone Englishman (sometimes two Englishmen, if one were to throw Alfred Russel Wallace into the mix) swimming against the tide of his times. And while Darwin must stay in our textbooks, this is where our teaching of his theory must change.

Darwin's theory is based on the fossils he collected and the wildlife he observed on his five-year trip (1831-36) on the *HMS Beagle* – a fact that is routinely taught. Something that is not taught, however, is that right before Darwin set out on his journey, the captain of the ship handed him a copy of geologist Charles Lyell's *Principles of Geology*.

> Rather than erasing the 'theory of evolution' from textbooks, which is short-sighted from the point of a well-rounded education, the way Darwin's theory is taught needs to change

Lyell, having studied glaciers, volcanoes and fossils, proposed the concept of "gradual geological change": that geological phenomena and objects today result from minute changes accumulating over a period of time, much like how random mutations that confer advantage to certain organisms accumulate over time, giving rise to their present-day species. Darwin himself acknowledged the strong influence of Lyell's theories on his work.

Biologist Ruth Hubbard, the first woman to hold a tenured professorship position at Harvard University's biology department, wrote in 1979: "By the time Darwin came along, it was clear to many people that the earth and its creatures had histories." As an example, Hubbard talks of Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, the French naturalist who proposed his own theory of evolution before Darwin. Flawed as it was, it also portrayed evolution as a process that included accumulation of changes over time and did not involve an 'intelligent designer'.

Other influences

The other important aspect that biology classrooms ignore is the impact that social beliefs of his times had on how Darwin looked at the natural world. Philosopher Bertrand Russell has written about how Darwin's theory was "essentially an extension to the animal and vegetable world of laissez-faire economics". The term, conceived by economist Adam Smith and developed by Thomas Malthus, referred to self-interest and free competition in the marketplace. Malthus also propounded a theory of population in 1798, where he claimed that humans compete for limited resources until a catastrophic event leads to a decline in their population.

Darwin was greatly influenced – as he has acknowledged in his autobiography – by Malthus' ideas of competition in an environment with limited resources. Thus, only those living beings survive that carry variations that give them an edge over others – a phenomenon that Darwin termed "natural selection".

Finally, another grave omission in the teaching of the theory of evolution is the consequent use of his theory – both by others and Darwin himself.

For instance, Herbert Spencer's idea of "survival of the fittest", proposed in 1864, coalesced eventually into a philosophy called "social Darwinism", which is well known to have fuelled eugenics in the late 19th century. In his later book, *The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex*, Darwin claimed that men have evolved to be naturally more intelligent since they have had to continuously use their "mental faculties" to hunt for food, and to defend "their females" and offspring.

Notably, here Darwin seems to invoke the same Lamarckian theory of use and disuse, which his theory of natural selection had disproven in the Origin.

A reminder about the world of science

But, why must students and teachers in school concern themselves with these aspects of Darwin's theory? The reason is that these examples carry crucial insights about science in both the historical and contemporary world; it is rarely the story of a lone man, and it is shaped by the social and cultural beliefs of its times (think about how the Second World War was crucial to several scientific inventions and discoveries, which includes the atom bomb), to which it also actively contributes.

Most importantly, however, these examples remind us that science is a messy affair (like all human endeavours) that requires caution alongside curiosity, creativity and imagination. If the strength of science lies in its ability to stand the test of critical inquiry, then science classrooms must inculcate the embracing of critique, sometimes at the risk of confronting its own troubled history.

The teaching of Darwin's theory offers possibilities of this confrontation without underplaying its strengths. Thus, while Darwin must remain in our textbooks, how we teach him must change.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Maoist attack

It is disheartening that our security personnel are easy pickings for Maoists (Page 1, April 27). Even after steps such as community development, an emphasis on developing infrastructure (roads, housing), and trust building exercises, why is it that extremist groups are able to infiltrate vulnerable communities? Confidence-building measures are a must.

Anurag Ghosh,
Hyderabad

Wednesday's incident in Dantewada, where a team from the Chhattisgarh District Reserve Guard lost 10 personnel in an ambush by Maoists, is shocking and demoralising. It is inconceivable that the nation's security forces have not learnt lessons from past experiences. The perception is that there were lapses.

P. Mangalachandran,
West Ponniam, Kannur, Kerala

The attack highlights the ability of the Maoists to pull off ambushes despite a waning influence among locals. It is also true that certain pockets of the country still remain vulnerable to Maoist attacks. There need to be better methods to neutralise the use of improvised explosive devices.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Elections, contenders

The 1990s saw a younger 'sect' of leaders, impatient for technology and progress, taking over and largely sacrificing a core socio-political ethos and value systems at the altar of hedonic economic pursuit. At the turn of a 60-year cycle now, the governance of nations globally is perhaps tending to be entrusted again to 'seasoned' septuagenarians. Major conflicts around the world, post the 1970s, were fought under younger leaders. The latest, in Ukraine, has nations rediscovering that economics is not the end in itself but a mere tool to constantly reset socio-political equilibria in a rapidly modernising world. It is also a rediscovery of the need for a sagacious leadership to firmly anchor the basic tenets of universal governance. One waits to see how it will be in 2024, in the United States.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

The potential contest between Donald Trump and Joe Biden for the world's most powerful post is concerning.
Are there no new and charismatic leaders? The disinterest shown by the young in politics and governance is cause for concern. There is a need to engage young people in a better way in politics.

S. Sundareswara Pandiyan,
Chennai

Mamukkoya

Unassuming and ebullient Mamukkoya was one of Malayalam cinema's most naturally gifted and popular actors. Devoid of glamour and glitz, he effortlessly brought entertainment and peals of laughter to many homes.
Down-to-earth and rustic, he was a man of firm convictions and beliefs. The void left by him is not easy to fill.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Should India consider phasing out nuclear power?

PARLEY

R. Srikanth

is Professor and Dean, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, and head of the Energy, Environment and Climate Change Programme

Rahul Tongia

is Senior Fellow, Center for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi, where he leads the Energy, Natural Resources and Sustainability Group

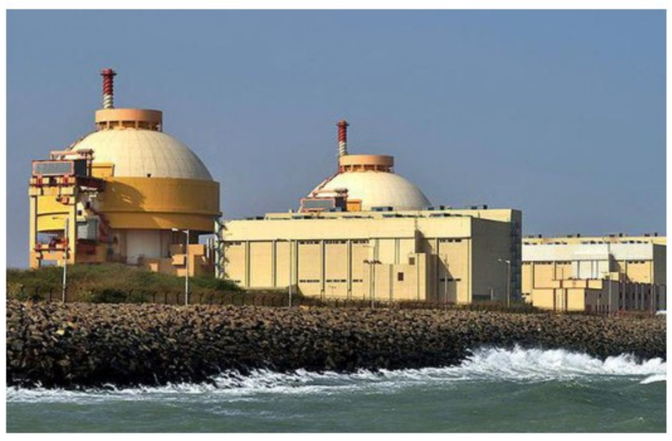
Germany has shut down the last of its nuclear power plants; France, the nuclear powerhouse of the world, is struggling to replenish its stock of ageing reactors. With solar and wind power becoming more popular globally, there are questions on whether nuclear power, with its attendant concerns on cost and safety, remains a relevant option for a future that is fossil-free, particularly in India. In a conversation moderated by **Jacob Koshy**, R. Srikanth and Rahul Tongia discuss whether nuclear energy should be phased out. Edited excerpts:

Globally, what is the outlook for nuclear power, especially when solar and wind power are becoming far more popular?

R. Srikanth: A lot has happened in the last two years. Particularly after the Ukraine war, nuclear power is seeing a renaissance, even in Europe and the U.S. China has anyway been surging ahead on nuclear power. South Korea's new president has changed the energy policy and committed to increasing the share of nuclear power in the country's energy mix to 30% by 2030. Japan, which should have completely shut down reactors after the Fukushima (accident), is restarting them – 10 have been restarted following years of inspection and upgrading safety systems, and I believe that the plan is to start 10 more. Japan had to do that because it was otherwise dependent either on expensive, imported coal or on natural gas (LNG). Beyond Germany, the U.K. has said that without scaling up nuclear power, it won't be possible to decarbonise the electricity sector.

Rahul Tongia: A lot of people worldwide are still struggling with this question: is nuclear power 'green'? But it is absolutely low carbon, even when you look at life-cycle costs. A lot of countries are saying that nuclear would be good to have in the mix because it is firm, dispatchable power, while wind and solar are intermittent or variable. (Firm power is power that can be sent to the electric grid to be supplied whenever needed.) And what do you do if you get days and days of no-wind spells? Some people say batteries will be the answer. But batteries are very expensive and have an environmental impact. There is no free lunch.

I think a lot of scholars and people who care about the environment are just concerned that when Germany shut down its plants prematurely, from an environmental perspective all the carbon in the cement (for construction) is already sunk and yet you've shut it down before its life term. It would be the same sort of thing for India or any other country. Using an asset, whether a car or a power plant, till the end of its life is probably the best thing you could do for the environment, unless something can displace it entirely. From the global perspective, the first question is, do you have an alternative that would let you say, 'I don't need nuclear.' As I mentioned, most wind and solar is variable. Therefore, how do you get your firm power? A lot of countries moved away from coal, but they went to natural gas, not renewables. I think that's an important point that all of us need to keep in mind.



File photo of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Resistance to nuclear energy is also driven by fears about safety, nuclear proliferation, or some other concern. Some of those remain, but a lot has been diminished, partly post-Ukraine but also because the nuclear industry is moving towards 'passive safety' designs (for nuclear reactors). Older designs required active cooling pumps, but you can now have systems which, even if the power fails, will gradually and gracefully control temperature, waste-heat and things like that. The worst sort of accident in history, Chernobyl, was a design that will never get repeated again. So, these (passive safety designs) are standard, including at Kudankulam. Is anything fail-safe? No, but then you have to put it in context – there are coal mine disasters, transport disasters, local air pollution.

Another challenge is cost. And that is an area where nuclear has yet to fully prove itself, partly because of cost overruns and partly because of other things. But now we're looking at new designs like small modular reactors. And there is a belief that this will address the cost structure quite a bit going forward.

What about radioactivity from spent fuel? While it might be that people are slightly less fearful of nuclear power, it doesn't reflect in questions surrounding nuclear liability. Nuclear liability continues to be the major sticking point behind why the deal to install

> From the global perspective, the first question is, do you have an alternative that would let you say, 'I don't need nuclear.' As I mentioned, most wind and solar is variable. Therefore, how do you get your firm power?
> RAHUL TONGIA

French European Pressurised Reactors at Jaitapur, Maharashtra, hasn't made progress.

RS: One of the things that we have to realise is what is the amount (of fuel) that we are actually talking about. If you look like at a plant like Kudankulam, for operating one of these units – 1,000 megawatts at 90% PLF (plant load factor) – what you require over a year is only 25 tonnes of low enriched uranium fuel. Low enrichment means below 5% (proportion of fissile uranium). Compare that to a coal plant (of similar capacity) – you'll require approximately five million tonnes of coal, and coal produces ash. And if you look at many of the power plants in the country, they have huge ash ponds. In some cases, the size of the ash pond is bigger than the size of the plant. Ash also contains many heavy metals, which are detrimental to the water source. Regarding nuclear liability, it is not money, but that (in case of an accident), the supplier of components to the nuclear plant is exposed to various liabilities, including criminal liability. That is something which basically no Western company will accept.

India's nuclear plan is premised on working around its limited supply of enriched uranium. Elsewhere, wherever nuclear has taken off, there is no real issue of accessing nuclear fuel. However, nuclear power is only 2.5%-3.2% of India's installed and generated power. Is it time that we revisit some of the assumptions under which the nuclear programme, the civilian nuclear programme particularly, has been supported so far?

RS: India has very limited growth potential for hydropower because of conserving biodiversity and the costs of rehabilitating and compensating land owners. And, of course, the seismological factors in the Himalayas. The alternative to coal is nuclear power. We've got nearly 210 gigawatts of coal capacity, and it produces 73% of electricity of India, whereas nuclear is only around 3.2%. From our research into the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and how it works, we can conclude that business as usual cannot continue. One of the major reasons that growth of nuclear power is hindered is because we have a monopoly (all reactors are operated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited) and the first thing that must happen is the civilian nuclear programme. I'm not saying it should be privatised, but at least you should allow other government companies like the NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) to get into nuclear on their own. If we hope to achieve 'net zero' (no net carbon emissions by 2070), we need something like 100 gigawatts by 2050. We'll need a combination of small modular reactors and large reactors, but it cannot be done by one company. It has to be done by multiple companies.

RT: It's inevitable that you need to be open to a range of options. The key word here is portfolio. Energy, especially electricity but energy overall, is not going to be the one thing that solves all our problems. It's going to be a mix of supply side and demand side. It's not that if I just add solar, all problems are solved. Some years ago, we used to lament, 'Oh, if only solar were cheaper.' Well, it is pretty darn cheap now but doesn't solve our problems. 'Oh, if only batteries were cheaper!' Well, they will get cheaper over time, but that's not enough. So, we need a portfolio of technologies within the nuclear sector and outside the nuclear sector. And what these need to do at a design level is interplay well.

So, India should never consider phasing out nuclear power?

RT: Let me clarify. Your policy should be about enabling frameworks to let all technologies play. The value that nuclear provides is of being low carbon, firm, reliable, etc. If those do work out competitively as having that value, they will automatically grow. I am not in favour of targets that say, 'Thou shall be x percent.' Well, what if something else came up? What if prices change? What if the technology changed? The government, or for that matter anybody, shouldn't be taking technology bets, per se, but policy should be about frameworks and enablement. That is where things like the civil liability or support mechanisms matter. I'm neither saying nuclear must grow nor that we must kill nuclear because it hasn't grown. If nuclear didn't scale up to its potential, on the one extreme, you could say let's kill it. On the other extreme, you would continue with it. Or you would figure out why it didn't grow and if it doesn't perform well, its share in the energy mix will fall.

To listen to the full Parley
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NOTEBOOK

'Can you help us?' The moral challenge while reporting

Journalists ask uncomfortable questions, and every once in a while, struggle to answer uncomfortable questions themselves

Abhinay Deshpande

As reporters, every day we embark on a search for a good story. Good stories are informative, shocking, disturbing, interesting, amusing or uplifting. Since many of these stories are about the travails of the human condition, what often counts as a "good" story for us is a recollection or narration of a bad experience that other people face. Good journalism often means to ask awkward and uncomfortable questions in order to add humanising details to cold facts.

Over the last few weeks, I have written some disturbing stories: on the sexual exploitation of women working in sugarcane fields in western Maharashtra; on the human sacrifice of a nine-year-old tribal boy from Dadra and Nagar Haveli; on the sorry plight of onion farmers in Nashik, which houses Asia's largest wholesale market; and on the widows of Marathwada who take care of their families after the death of their husbands by suicide due to failing crops or falling crop prices and debt. Everybody had a bad story to tell. For journalists, some of these stories are close to us, in our backyard, and some are hundreds of kilometers away.

For people like these women or farmers to share their stories with us reporters requires courage and vulnerability. When I visited the Beed and Dharashiv (formerly Osmanabad) districts in the drought-hit Marathwada region to write a story on farmer suicides, I had to ask some uncomfortable questions of the wives of these farmers who are now managing the household and repaying debts. What are their memories of their loved ones? What was their husband's last meal, their last conversation, their dreams? These are sensitive questions which force people to recollect memories that they may not want to remember. The women suddenly started crying. I paused before gently prodding them with other questions.

Renuka Keshav Rathod, a 30-year-old tribal woman from Hardala Tanda in Beed district, cried when she said her husband Keshav went to the nearby market, brought mangoes and asked his wife to prepare *aamrass* and roti, his favourite meal, just hours before his death. A few kilometres away, Ganesh Asaram Sangle, 20, who takes care of his grandmother, mother and younger brother after his father's death, said his dream was to become a police constable and prepare for the competitive exam. But his father ended his life after suffering crop losses, and now Sangle was forced to dream smaller.

But the most uncomfortable moments are those of helplessness, when the victims or families plead for help. Everyone I spoke to in Marathwada had the same questions: Can you help us? Can you ask the government to come to our rescue? These were the same questions that I heard from the elderly woman who lost her nine-year-old grandson in a case of human sacrifice, the migrant workers in western Maharashtra, and the the onion farmers of Nashik. These are questions that we journalists struggle to answer. As reporters, our job is to report; we are not in a position to provide help to people in need. I did not promise them anything. I wrote about their struggles.

But the vague guilt that comes with not providing assistance goes away when help does come – sometimes from generous readers and at other times in more structured, systemic ways. When the story on farmers' suicide was published, for instance, I got messages on Twitter and WhatsApp, emails, and phone calls from strangers, including from someone settled in the U.S. – all offering help to the affected families. I was happy that there are people who read these stories and reach out to help, and I am always glad to connect them to these families. I felt a wave of relief that day, but there is also a lingering sense of despair. Something good did come out of that story, but how many more such stories are out there waiting to be told, how many more voices waiting to be heard?

deshpande.abhinay@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

'Humboldt to see you, Doc'

A curious Humboldt penguin named Oscar looks at Dr. Madhumita Kale, head veterinary doctor at the Byculla Zoo, inside the temperature-controlled penguin enclosure of the zoo in Mumbai, on World Penguin Day (April 25). The day is observed in honour of these remarkable birds and their place in our world, as climate change and other pressures threaten their habitat and food sources, leading to significant declines in some populations. Photo: Emmanual Yogini

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 28, 1973

Search for top man to 'clean up' White House

Washington, April 27: President Nixon is believed to be seeking a public figure of prestige and impeccable integrity to oversee a purge of any White House staff tainted with the Watergate bugging scandal. But the White House yesterday denied reports that Mr. Nixon had already offered the job to Mr. Melvin Laird, who served as the President's Defence Secretary throughout his first administration. Mr. Laird, asked about the reports, told pressmen he was not interested in another Government position. But friends in Washington said they believed he could be persuaded to take on special duties for the President if it was put to him that he was vitally needed. The White House Press Secretary said no one had been approached for the purpose of reorganising the White House staff. Signs that a search for a "house cleaner" is on emerged yesterday as the White House appeared to confirm reports that the President's Chief of Staff had lost at least some of his power and influence.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 28, 1923

Leper problem

London, April 26: In the House of Commons to-day, replying to a question by Sir Charles Yate in which he referred to the marked improvement in the conditions of lepers which obtained as the result of treatment and research in leper asylum in India, Mr. Chamberlain said that the treatment and research mentioned by Sir Charles were being carefully studied by his department.

From Page One

Ties depend on peace on border: Rajnath

The Defence Ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will also participate in the SCO meeting. India has also invited Belarus and Iran, currently observers in the SCO, for the meeting. The Defence Minister of Pakistan will participate virtually. The Ministers will discuss matters of regional peace and security, counter-terrorism efforts within the SCO, and an effective multilateralism, the Defence Ministry said.

As the SCO chair, India has organised two defence-related activities to enhance interoperability amongst member states: a workshop on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and a seminar of SCO nations' defence think-tanks on the issue of armed forces contributing to military medicine, healthcare and pandemic management. "SCO pursues its policy based on the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations, non-interference in internal affairs, equality of all member States and mutual understanding and respect for opinions of each of them," a Ministry statement added.

IED was planted a day or two before: police

Later, when *The Hindu* visited the site, a senior officer of the Chhattisgarh police and a bomb expert from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) present there also reiterated the foxhole theory. "The trenches alongside the road made it easier to dig a hole using iron bars and rods to take nearly 60 kilogram of explosives inside. We suspect this was done a day or two before the explosion and the sheer volume of explosives resulted in the formation of a deep crater," said the officer. It was then triggered off using cables from a tree located nearly 150 metres inside the forest alongside the road.

The officer was supervising the work of filling up the crater at the site where the parts of the exploded vehicle and human bodies were visible even more than 24 hours after the explosion.

The officer added that the Maoists were precise with their target as they had let three vehicles carrying civilians five minutes before the explosion. One of the vehicles had the same make and design as the one carrying the batch of the now slain jawans of the District Reserve Guard.

"We also suspect that they picked the specific location for the blast as this is one area within the road connecting Aranpur and Saneli villages where some kind of phone signals are available. This along with local support was vital in tracking the movements of the 50 jawans returning from an anti-Maoist operation in the jungles in four different vehicles," said the officer.

Commenting on the attack, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that in the last four years, 75 camps (of security forces) had been set up in the core areas of Naxalites, while earlier the camps were established only in buffer areas.

India sends third ship *INS Tarkash* to Port Sudan for evacuating citizens

The Foreign Secretary says evacuation efforts face challenges such as lack of diesel and buses, calls situation in Sudan 'highly volatile and unpredictable'; he expresses gratitude to Saudi Arabia for cooperation in 'Operation Kaveri'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

INS Tarkash, an Indian naval ship, reached Port Sudan on Thursday to evacuate stranded Indians. Announcing the progress of Operation Kaveri to bring back Indians from the war-torn Sudan, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said India would do "all that it requires to be done" to help its citizens in Sudan.

The country was "extremely grateful" to Saudi Arabia for its support in the evacuation.

"On April 25, *INS Sumedha* brought 278 Indian nationals. It's the same *INS Sumedha* which has gone back and re-docked today. Two sorties of C-130J brought in 121 and 135 passengers, respectively. Yesterday on 26th April, another batch of 297 Indians have sailed out on *INS Teg* and there were two more sorties of C-130J to evacuate 264 Indians," he said giving an update on Indians and persons of Indian origin (PIOs) evacuated so far.

Indian citizens who were evacuated from Sudan outside the Mumbai International Airport on Thursday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

INS Tarkash is the third ship to join the evacuation, which is being supported also by *INS Sumedha* and *INS Teg*. The ships are being used to ferry stranded Indians from Port Sudan to the Saudi port of Jeddah from where they are being flown to India. "The pockets of concentration of Indians are in Khartoum city and its suburbs. There are also pockets in Omdurman, Port Sudan," he said.

The Foreign Secretary said India had set up control rooms in Jeddah and Port Sudan, and the evacuation had to deal with factors such as lack of diesel and buses. He said 42 Indian nationals were evacuated to South Sudan. "There were evacuation requests from other nationalities also. From our side, we are willing to provide all possible assistance to everybody who approaches us for such assistance," he said explaining that such a process would have to take into account procedures in the transit country, Saudi Arabia.

Describing the situation in Sudan as "highly volatile and unpredictable", he said India was in touch with the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces. India has been aiming to bring its citizens to the "greater safety zone" as the first step and then shift them to Port Sudan before evacuating them to India, via Jeddah. "Substantial number of buses are currently on their way from Khartoum city to Port Sudan. Between 1,700 and 2,000 people have already moved out from the conflict zone," he said.

Late on Thursday, Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan announced that the seventh batch of stranded Indians from Port Sudan had landed in Jeddah. There were 135 passengers onboard the C-130J aircraft.

Breach of privilege probe against BJP MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has referred to a committee a complaint of "breach of privilege" against BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi for alleged "disrespectful" remarks made against him.

A Rajya Sabha bulletin issued on Thursday said Mr. Trivedi's "continual and deliberate disrespectful observations against the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and casting aspersions on his impartiality" towards Congress chief whip in the Upper House Jairam Ramesh, were the reasons for referring the complaint against him to the committee. No deadline has been issued to the committee. It has been asked to investigate and report the matter.

HC asks NIA to probe Ram Navami riots in Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday directed the National Investigation Agency to conduct an investigation into the violence during the Ram Navami procession at Shibpur in Howrah, Dalkhola in Uttar Dinajpur and Hooghly districts.

A Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya directed the police to ensure that all FIRs, documents, materials seized, CCTV footage, and so on are immediately handed over to the NIA.

EPFO to wait for applications before finalising calculation for higher EPS

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Even as the last date to file joint options to claim higher Provident Fund pension ends on May 3, the Centre has decided to wait for the total number of applicants before releasing the procedures to calculate the pension and the share of employees.

The amendments to the Employees' Pension Scheme of 1995 to decide the future of the Centre's budgetary support of 1.16% of wages to the higher pension of a member of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is also likely to take time.

Both decisions are important for implementing the Supreme Court order of November 4, 2022, on the higher PF pension.

A senior government functionary told *The Hindu* that the calculation will be done once there is an assessment of the total applicants. "We will work out the calculation based on the number of applicants," he said, adding that an assessment can be made about the government's contribution and the EPFO's role only after looking at the total number of applicants.

Asked about the amendments to the EPS 1995 for clarity on the contribution of the employee and the government, he said the Centre is working on it. "The Labour Ministry is working on it," he added.

The pensioners, the employers and trade unions have been seeking clarity, including proper methods of calculation, before the submission of joint options. "Basically, the EPFO has left the task of calculation to the employers. The work which EPFO had to do is being shifted to the shoulders of employers," said pensioners' rights activist Parveen Kohli. Mr. Kohli said the pensioners' groups would help the employers to prepare the total amount payable, interest and other components that are needed for claiming higher PF pension.

Mr. Kohli said the EPFO had not opened its cards. "They are lingering the works on. We doubt that they are trying to change the nature of the scheme. We have to see the amendments to the EPS when it is brought to Parliament. No one knows their plan. The employees and pensioners will suffer in this process," he added.

The EPFO had extended the time to submit the options till May 3 as the Supreme Court-set deadline for submitting the joint options with employers ended on March 3.

Five entities banned from trading after manipulation

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The SEBI on Thursday barred five entities, including an employee of LIC, from the securities market and impounded illegal gains of ₹2.44 crore made by them, in a case pertaining to front-running the trades of the state-owned insurer. The entitites have been asked to "cease and desist" from engaging in fraudulent, manipulative or unfair trade practice.

They are Yogesh Garg, who was working in the investment department of LIC; his mother Sarita Garg; his mother-in-law Kamlesh Agarwal; Ved Prakash, Sarita Garg HUF.

Law Ministry notifies judges appointment in four HCs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Eleven judicial officers and two advocates were on Thursday elevated as additional judges and judges in four High Courts, including the Delhi High Court. The other three High Courts are Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Separately, Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma was transferred from the Patna High Court to the Punjab and Haryana High Court, while Justice Atul Sreedharan of Madhya Pradesh was moved to the Jammu & Kashmir High Court.

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju tweeted the appointments and transfer orders. "In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 224 of the Constitution, the President is pleased to appoint Shri (1) Girish Kathpalia and (ii) Manoj Jain, to be Additional Judges of Delhi High Court, for a period of two years, with effect from the date they assume charge of their respective offices," one of the orders read.

Roopesh Chandra Varshney, Anuradha Shukla, Sanjeev Sudhakar Kalgaonkar, Prem Narayan Singh, Achal Kumar Paliwal, Hirdesh, and Avanindra Kumar Singh have been appointed as judges of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Dimasa rebel group signs peace pact with Centre, Assam govt.

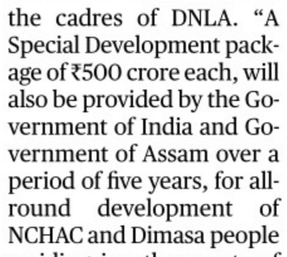
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

An Assam-based insurgent group – Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA)/ Dimasa People's Supreme Council (DPSC) – which operates in Dima Hasao district, signed a peace agreement with the State government and the Centre in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday. After the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU), Mr. Shah said, "The agreement will put a complete end to insurgency and there are no more armed groups in Assam today."

He said that under the agreement, the DNLA representatives have agreed to give up violence, surrender including the surrender of arms and ammunition, disband their armed organisation, vacate all camps occupied by DNLA cadres and join the mainstream. As a result over 168 armed cadres of DNLA surrendered with their weapons and joined the mainstream, he said.

The Minister said the agreement will bring a complete end to the insurgency in Dima Hasao district of Assam.

"Dimasa Welfare Council will be set up by the Assam government to protect, preserve and promote a social, cultural, and linguistic identity to meet political, economic and educational aspirations and will ensure speedy and focused development of the Dimasa people residing outside the Autonomous Council," he said.



Amit Shah

The MoU also provides for the appointment of a Commission under Paragraph 14 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India to examine the demand for the inclusion of additional villages contiguous to the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) with the Council.

It also provides for necessary measures to be taken by the Government of India and the Assam government to rehabilitate the cadres of DNLA. "A Special Development package of ₹500 crore each, will also be provided by the Government of India and Government of Assam over a period of five years, for all-round development of NCHAC and Dimasa people residing in other parts of the State," the Ministry said in a statement.

ED searches firm owned by Chinese nationals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted searches on two premises purportedly linked to Pigeon Education Technology India Private Ltd. under the Foreign Exchange Management Act provisions, it said on Thursday.

Through a statement, the agency alleged that the company was completely owned by Chinese nationals and had remitted around ₹82 crore to China in the form of marketing expenses. The company, which is providing online education in the name of Odaclass, is "part of a group consisting of a complex web of entities having ultimate controlling company in Cayman Island. The present directors of the company are Liu Can, who is a Chinese national, and Vedant Hamirwasia".

The ED said the search operation in Bengaluru revealed that the entire affairs of the company were controlled by Liu Can from China; the Indian director was having no control or access to the affairs of the company; he followed all the instructions of the Chinese people. The Chinese director is the authorised signatory in bank accounts of the company maintained in India and the same are being operated online through China.

Soon, Indian Army to raise cyber operations and support wings

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

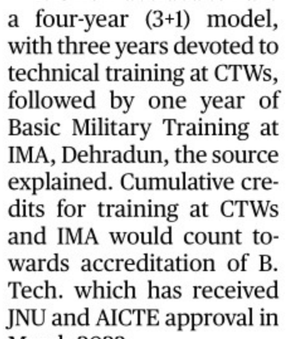
Several major decisions were taken at the Army Commanders Conference (ACC) that was held last week. The ACC had decided to operationalise command cyber operations and support wings (CCOSWs) in the immediate future with current focus on Net-centric operations, convert the five-year Technical Entry Scheme (TES) for entry of officers to four years from January 2024, train motivated soldiers for Paralympic events, and double the sustenance allowance to specially-abled children of personnel killed in the line of duty through the Army General Insurance Fund.

"The expansion of cyber warfare capabilities by our adversaries has made the cyber domain more competitive and contested than ever before. Hence, to safeguard the networks and increase the preparedness levels in this domain, CCOSWs are being raised," a source said.

On the TES, the statement said that training initiatives to optimise infrastructure, time and resources to maintain an effective and lethal fighting force were widely deliberated upon by the ACC.

The five-year Technical Entry Scheme (TES) model currently for officers' entry as B.Tech. graduates has been in place since 1999. Under this, one year of military training is imparted at the Officers Training Academy (OTA), Gaya, followed by three years' B.Tech. degree at the Cadet Training Wings, followed by one year at the three engineering colleges of the Army: College of Military Engineering (CME), Pune; Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow; and Military College of Mechanical and Electronics Engineering (MCEME), Secunderabad.

It is now decided to have a four-year (3+1) model, with three years devoted to technical training at CTWs, followed by one year of Basic Military Training at IMA, Dehradun, the source explained. Cumulative credits for training at CTWs and IMA would count towards accreditation of B. Tech. which has received JNU and AICTE approval in March 2023.



Rajnath Singh at the Army Commanders' Conference. ANI

Ex-MP Anand Mohan, convicted in murder case, walks out of jail

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

The release from jail of former MP Anand Mohan Singh, a strongman from the Kosi area of north Bihar who was convicted of inciting the murder of a District Magistrate in 1994, has sparked a huge controversy. The Opposition BJP urged the State unit of the IAS Association to challenge his release in court, while the Bihar Chief Secretary asserted that Singh had been released from jail under the prescribed rules and regulations.

The former MP and convict was officially released from Saharsa jail in the early hours of Thursday, but his whereabouts could not be traced after that. Family members and villagers kept waiting for Singh at Pachgachhia village in Saharsa district of north Bihar – just a few kilometres away from the jail – in order to welcome his release after several years in prison, but he had not turned up till Thursday evening.

'Encouraging criminals'

The Central IAS Association expressed its "deep dismay" over Singh's release, and urged the Bihar government to "rethink" its decision. The Andhra Pradesh IAS Association also expressed "strong objection" to the decision to release the convict of such a brutal killing. Krishnaiah was from Andhra Pradesh, and his wife and daughter live in Hyderabad.

"We do not agree with the move of the government to release him from jail. It's encouraging the criminals. It sends out a message that you can commit a crime and go to jail, but then get freed and join politics. We urge the State and the Union governments for justice," said Krishnaiah's wife Uma and daughter Padma Krishnaiah.

APPEAL

Ms. Titli Dutta, Daughter of Sahadeb Dutta 10 years admitted in Manipal Hospitals, is suffering from Moderate Fenestration in VSD Patch R-L, additional Muscular VSDs R-L, severe RVOT obstruction and free PR. She requires to undergo REDO RVOT relief at the earliest. The estimated cost of the surgery is **Rs. 5,00,000/-**.

Please send donation however small and save the girl. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Titli Dutta. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

Back to life from a rarefied, deathly, hallucinating night at Annapurna

Amarjot Kaur

Award-winning mountaineer Baljeet Kaur, who became the first and only Indian to climb five 8,000-metre peaks in a single season in March 2021, went missing on April 18 during one of the most dangerous treks in the world – the summit of Annapurna I. Her chances of survival were so bleak that the news of her death had gone viral.

Just hours later, though, she was found alive. It was a miracle, for no one expected her to survive a night without oxygen support at nearly 7,000 metres above sea level and in -40 degrees Celsius.

In an interview over phone from Nepal, the 27-year-old woman from Solan, Himachal Pradesh, recalls fighting hallucinations and having faith to stay alive. Ms. Kaur's close shave with death is a sobering reminder of the risks and dangers associated with high-altitude mountaineering.

For the trek, in which she wanted to climb the 8,091-metre-high Annapurna peak without oxygen support, Ms. Kaur had enrolled with a Nepal-based mountaineering company, Pioneer Adventure, on March 26. She had been provided an experienced Sherpa (mountain guides who are known by their ethnicity) and a rookie porter. The trio reached Camp IV of Annapurna I on April 15. The plan was to leave at 2 p.m. the next day, but the experienced Sherpa left in the morning, saying he would join them in some time. Usually, it takes 16-17 hours to reach the summit, depending on the individual's capacity. But, Ms. Kaur and the porter trudged in the hope of the Sherpa coming back. At 3 a.m. on April 17, a Sherpa descending the summit met Ms. Kaur and told her he had been sent by her guide. Ms. Kaur wanted to summit by afternoon. That wasn't to be.

When the trio reached the summit some time between 6 p.m. and 6.30 p.m., AMS, or acute mountain sickness, had started to kick in. "Some time before the we reached the top, I wanted to cancel the climb as the other two were showing signs of AMS, but they insisted we continue as we had come far," she says.

On reaching the top, Ms. Kaur had her first hallucination, a symptom of AMS. "I saw a woman congratulating me for the climb and asking me for money in return for Nepal's flag. I decided to descend quickly," she says. "I think I must have covered some 200 metres when I saw the Sherpa and the porter fighting. They then turned on me and asked me to walk fast."

Lucky break: Baljeet Kaur went missing while descending from the summit of Annapurna I. Later, she was found alive . PTI

With AMS causing fatigue and mental impairment, Ms. Kaur traipsed. At around 8 p.m., she had another hallucination.

Tired of asking her to be quick, the Sherpa paced down the mountain and the porter asked her if he could leave too. "I didn't know what to say, so I asked him to go. I ambled down, gathering my thoughts. My eyes were heavy and I was trying to keep them open. So, I slapped myself," she recollects.

Ms. Kaur continued to struggle, resting and walking down the mountain. "I felt someone had covered me from behind, as I couldn't feel the cold wind, even though I could hear it howling."

She remembers standing up from the snow at a point of time and seeing light coming from below. "It was Camp IV. I started trekking down after changing my safety anchor. I wasn't leaving the rope that was attached to my harness, but a voice in my head kept telling me to unclasp it," she says. The hallucinations got stronger and more frequent. "Every 15-20 minutes, my mind would imagine something and I'd regain consciousness for five minutes. My life depended on decisions I took in that time window," she says.

The rescue

Ms. Kaur pulled herself up and sat on the edge of a cliff. "Around 7.56 a.m., I reached out for my phone to listen to the Gurbani (Sikh prayer). The first thing I saw was the Garmin Earthmate app, which prompted me to send an SOS, 'Rescue Needed', to my agency. An hour later, I received a reply. I was told a helicopter had been sent, but it could not land," she says. "I could barely keep my eyes open when I heard the helicopter and saw it fly past me," she says. "But just then the copter positioned itself right above my head and threw a rope down. I unclasped my harness and attached myself to the hook of the rope."

Within 10 minutes, she was flown to base camp.

Between April 16 and 20, Prateek Gupta, founder and CEO of Adventure Sports Cover 360, initiated the rescue of four mountaineers from Annapurna.

Ms. Kaur attaching the rope thrown down to her and locking it to her harness was "miraculous", he says. "Usually, a climber is incapacitated after spending a night in minus 40 degrees Celsius and has suffered Grade IV frostbites," Mr. Gupta says.

Why is Modi silent on Poonch terror attack: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "silence" on the Poonch terror attack that killed five Army personnel and cited several terror assaults in Jammu and Kashmir in recent times to accuse the Centre of endangering national security.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said, "PM Modi has not come out with any reaction condemning the terror attack, even as reports indicate a Taliban link to the same."

"...is it appropriate for the Modi government to start its diplomatic outreach and engagement with Taliban," he asked.

'Ready to play facilitator to push govt. to ease concerns of same-sex partners'

Conscious of our limitations as a court, says Chief Justice Chandrachud; the SC says it can facilitate solutions for day-to-day human concerns of cohabiting partners without touching upon the issue of legal recognition of same-sex marriage

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it is ready to play the role of a "facilitator" to push the government into taking administrative steps to bring down "barriers" and ease the day-to-day human concerns faced by cohabiting same-sex partners in areas such as joint banking, insurance and admissions of children to schools without touching upon the issue of legal recognition of same-sex marriage.

The seventh day of court hearing of petitions seeking legal status for same-sex marriages witnessed a sharp diversion on the part of a Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud. The petitioners have sought a judicial declaration of nothing less than a "full marriage" status for same-sex couples. But the court said "we don't want to go for an all-or-broke approach". The court, at one point, conscious of semantics, suggested labels such as "contract" and "partnership" to describe same-sex unions rather than "marriage".

> Except for legal recognition of same-sex relationships as marriage, if there are problems they [same-sex couples] face, they can be addressed
>
> **TUSHAR MEHTA**
> Solicitor-General

The government had argued that the court would encroach into the legislative arena by giving legal status to same sex marriages.

"We understand our limitations as a court. But there are so many problems faced by same sex couples which your Ministries, on the administrative side, can find real solutions...We can act as a facilitator to achieve these solutions," the CJI said.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said he would consult with the government and report back by Wednesday, the next day of hearing. "Except for legal recognition of same-sex relationships as marriage, if there are problems they face, they can be addressed," he underscored.

Justice S. Ravindra Bhat said a representative democracy had a duty to break down the barriers faced by the LGBTQIA+ community in their daily lives. Justice P.S. Narasimha said the term 'recognition' does not always mean 'marriage'. "These associations should not always be equated to marriage," Justice Narasimha clarified.

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul asked the Solicitor-General to find out whether the government had conducted any study to address concerns faced by the community following the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 2018.

Opposition leaders flay PM's remarks, say suicide is not a joke

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders on Thursday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for cracking a joke on a sensitive issue such as suicide and ridiculing mental health issues, at a conclave of a private TV channel.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the subject of young people dying by suicide "is a tragedy, not a joke". The Prime Minister, on Wednesday, narrated a joke about how a professor reading a note by his deceased daughter remarked that she had got a spelling wrong despite his efforts.

Party leader Rahul Gandhi said that thousands of families in India lose their children to suicide. "The Prime Minister shouldn't make fun of them," he said.

Manoj Jha, Rajya Sabha member from the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), tweeted, "Sickness is visible when the Prime Minister of the country tells a joke on a sensitive issue like 'suicide'. But even more frightening is the applause and laughter after the joke. We have become a very sick society...Jai Hind."

Deputy Leader of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction) Priyanka Chaturvedi said on Twitter, "We as a nation need to be more sensitive to depression and mental health issues with you leading the change not mocking their plight."

Centre de-recognises two postal unions

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The Centre has de-recognised the All India Postal Employees Union (AIPEU) and the National Federation of Postal Employees (NFPE) for making contributions to the farmers' protests, the Centre of Indian Trade Unions and for buying books from the CPI (M) office in Delhi.

The Ministry of Communications took the decision based on Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Association) Rules, 1993 and considering complaints by Bharatiya Postal Employees Association, affiliated to the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. The NFPE's assistant general secretary, P.K. Muraleedharan, told *The Hindu* that the decision will be challenged organisationally.

The order of de-recognition, signed by Nahar Singh Meena, Assistant Director-General of Department of Posts, said allegations of funding a party were levelled against the the NFPE and the AIPEA.

"Funding the farmers movement through Confederation of Central govt. Employees was categorically admitted vide letter dated 24.08.2022 of NFPE," the order said.

Comic books to mark 100th *Mann Ki Baat*

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Amar Chitra Katha comic books featuring people and themes mentioned in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's *Mann Ki Baat* series, projection mapping shows in iconic heritage sites like Red Fort and Konark Sun Temple and an exhibition by well-known artists would mark the completion of 100 episodes of the Prime Minister's radio programme.

Through the monthly radio programme, Mr. Modi interacts with citizens on themes and issues of social importance. The 100th episode of *Mann Ki Baat* will be broadcast on April 30. The first of the series of the 12 Amar Chitra Katha comic books would be released on April 30 and the rest over the next year. For the series, the comics will use people mentioned by the Prime Minister in his programme, those who have made a difference to society in everyday life.

"Free copies of the comic books would be distributed in all CBSE and Central Board schools. The publishers, however, are free to sell the books in open market," Union Culture Secretary Govind Mohan said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Email:ori-pottangi@nic.in
OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, POTTANGI
e-Procurement Notice for AMA HOSPITAL-Bid Identification No-BDO-Online-01/2023-24
Letter No.1467/2023 Date : 26.04.2023

1. Name of the work : Ama Hospital, CHC Pottangi
2. Total Number of works : 1 No.
3. Approximate Estimated cost : Rs. 29250000/- (Approximately)
4. Class of Contractor : "B" & "A" Class.
5. Period of Completion : 75 days
6. Other Details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding From	To
Block Development Officer, Pottangi.	BDO-Online Tender/ 01/2023-24	28.04.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	07.05.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website : www.tenders.ori.nic.in/nicgep/app
*N.B.: Any Corrigendum will be available in the Website only.
i-96: Block Development Officer, Pottangi.
OIPR-19019/11/0003/2324

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT
No.MD/ACCTS-WK-R-2/2023/527
Dated, the 24th April 2023
First Corrigendum to e-Tender Call Notice
No.:MD/ACCTS/WK-R-2/2023/350 Dt.14.03.2023
Name of the Work : Supply of 01 no.20 Knots Speed Patrol Boat along with manning crew on hire for a period of five years. Estimated Cost: Total Estimated cost Rs.11,80,78,000/- Plus GST Estimated cost put to tender :Rs.5,84,32,000/- Excluding Fuel Cost and GST. With reference to above e-tender, revised tender document has been published in the e-procurement website based on the minutes of pre-bid meeting Dt.31.03.2023 with extension of tender submission and opening dates till 16.05.2023 & 17.05.2023 respectively. For details, please log on to the Website :https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app .
Dy. Conservator, PPA
PPA/PR/08/2023-24, Dt.26.04.2023

APPOINTMENT
KALAM INSTITUTE OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY (KIHT)
IMPORTANT UPDATE
KIHT will be conducting interviews for various positions of consultants in KIHT and it's associate organizations. Corresponding job descriptions are available on website www.kiht.in

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE
(POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY SCIENCES & RESEARCH)
NABH Accredited (an autonomous centre under Government of Kerala
Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala - 670 103,Phone :+91 490 2399207, 2355881
Fax: 91 490 2355880,Email: mcctly@gmail.com, Web: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in
MCC/488/2021-G1-GAD EXPRESSION OF INTEREST 24/04/2023
Malabar Cancer Centre (MCC), Thalassery invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from IRDA registered insurance companies executing a Group Insurance for students of this institute. Last date of submission of EOI is on 15/05/2023 at 12.00 PM. For details please visit our website. www.mcc.kerala.gov.in or contact Ph: 9446136626 Sd/- Director

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 14/23-24/SE/PHC/PKD, JAL JEEVAN MISSION- 2022-23- WSS to Pudur panchayath- Design, construction, commissioning and maintenance of 5LL OHSR, 2LLOHSR, 1LL GLSR and 1.50LL Sump cum Pump house, supplying, laying, testing, commissioning and maintenance of CWPM,CWGM and distribution systems with providing FHTCs (2000Nos) Supplying and erection of CW Pump sets including PWD and LSGD Road restoration works, EMD : Rs. 500000, Tender fee : Rs. 16584, Last Date for submitting Tender : 19-05-2023 03:00:pm, Phone : 04912544927.
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Palakkad
KWA-JB-GL-6-144-2023-24

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग द्वितीय जोधपुर (मुख्यालय बाड़मेर)
क्रमांकः- 84 दिनांकः 18.04.2023
संशोधन अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्याः- 18/2022-2023
इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 18/2022-23 में अंकित प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजनान्तर्गत स्वीकृत सड़कों के चौड़ाईकरण एवं सुदृढ़ीकरण के कार्य की निविदा ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत किये जाने की दिनांक 03.05.2023 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक बढ़ाई जाती है। उक्त निविदायें अब दिनांक 03.05.2023 को दोपहर 03:00 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
NIB No.: PWD2223A5035
UBN: As under
1. PWD2223WLOB20446
(विजय कुमार वर्मा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय, जोधपुर (मुख्यालय-बाड़मेर)
डीआईपीआर/सी/5930/2023

UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Doon Helidrome Dehradun, Sahastradhara Road, P.O Kulhan, Pincode 248013 Tel. 0135 2608981
Letter No. 8153/UCADA/2023 Date: 27 Mar, 2023
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF HELICOPTER SERVICE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS (GARHWAL AND KUMAOUN REGION)

1. Date of downloading tender document at uktenders.gov.in 28/04/2023 Time 15:00 HRS
2. Date of Pre-bid meeting 06/05/2023 Time 11:30 HRS
3. Last date for submission of documents physically at UCADA 12/05/2023 Time 15:00 HRS
4. Last Date for submission of Tender 12/05/2023 Time 15:00 HRS
5. Date of opening of Technical Bid 12/05/2023 Time 16:00 HRS
6. Date of opening of financial bids: - Shall be intimated later by email to the technically qualified bidders.

For more details, please visit uktenders.gov.in / official website www.ucada.in /Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, Doon Helidrome, Mussoorie by pass P.O- Kulhan, Dehradun, Uttarakhand 248013 CEO, UCADA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
P.W.D. CIRCLE BANSWARA [RAJ]
Address- Near Circuit House, Jaipur road, Banswara (Raj.)327001
E-Mail:- piu_banswara@rediffmail.com
Phone - 02962-241808 sebanwsara.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
No. : D-1867 Date : 18.04.2023
Notice Inviting Bid (02/2023-24)
NIB code - PWD2324A0177
Bids for Major Repair Works of Municipal Road under Nagar Parishad Banswara, Major Repair Works of Municipal Road under Palika Garhi-Partapur and Major Repair Works of Municipal road under Nagar Palika Kushalgarh are invited from interested bidders from Dated 20.04.2023 9.30 am to 09.05.23 6.00pm. Other particular of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. The approximate value of the procurement in Rs. 1893.00 Lacs.
UBN - PWD2324WSOB00788 TO PWD2324WSOB00794
(Udai Singh Jarwal)
Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Circle Banswara
DIPR/C/5996

कार्यालय नगर परिषद्, पाली (राज.)
(लालबहादुर शास्त्री टाऊन हॉल, सुरजपोल के पास, पाली, पिनकोड– 306401)
(टेली–फैक्स नम्बर :– 02932–221301 , ई–मेल आई. डी.:–cmcpali@yahoo.co.in, exenmcp@gmail.com)
क्रमांक प.12( )विकास/इ.र.यो.ग्रामीण/2023/357 दिनांक 26/04/2023
ई–निविदा सूचना
सर्वसाधारण को एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है किमाननीय मुख्यमंत्री महोदय, राजस्थान सरकार के 'कोई भूखा नहीं सोए' के संकल्प को साकार करने की दिशा में वर्ष 2023–24 के बजट बिन्दु संख्या 70 के क्रम में स्वायत्त शासन विभाग से प्रदत्त दिशा–निर्देशों की पालना में नगर परिषद्, पाली की ओर से पाली जिले में कुल 58 ग्रामीण कस्बों में प्रस्तावित ग्रामीण इन्दिरा रसोईयों की स्थापना के लिए इन्दिरा रसोई योजना (ग्रामीण) के अन्तर्गत आधारभूत मद में सामग्री (कुल अनुमानित लागत राशि 2 करोड़ 32 लाख रुपये), यथा– बर्तन, फर्नीचर, कम्प्यूटर, विद्युत उपकरण एवं अन्य उपकरण, क्रय करते हुए आपूर्ति करने हेतु इच्छुक निविदादाता / संवेदक के मार्फतआईटम रेट कान्ट्रेक्ट पर दर अनुबंध किये जानेहेतु ई–निविदा पद्धति से ऑन–लाईन निविदायें इस कार्यालय से जारी ई–निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 316 दिनांक 26.04.2023 के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की गई है। प्रत्येक सामग्री–वार इच्छुक निविदादाता/संवेदक दिनांक 28/04/2023 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 09/05/2023 को सांय 06.00 बजे तक ऑन–लाईन निविदाऐं जमा करा सकते हैं और दिनांक 10/05/2023 को दोपहर 01:00 बजे तक भौतिक रूप से डी.डी. बंद लिफाफे में इस कार्यालय में जमा करा सकते है। इस ई–निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण वेबसाईट http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से तथा इस कार्यालय के इन्दिरा रसोई योजना प्रकोष्ठ से किसी भी राजकीय कार्य दिवस को कार्यालय समय में प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। निम्नांकित 5 आधारभूत सामग्री आपूर्ति के यू.बी.एन.नम्बर निम्नानुसार है–

क्र.सं.	नाम आधारभूत सामग्री	अनुमानित लागत राशि (लाखों में)	यू.बी.एन. नम्बर
1	बर्तन आपूर्ति	66.70	DLB2324GLOB03250
2	फर्नीचर आपूर्ति	72.50	DLB2324GLOB03251
3	कम्प्यूटर आपूर्ति	23.20	DLB2324GLOB03253
4	विद्युत उपकरण आपूर्ति	34.80	DLB2324GLOB03256
5	अन्य उपकरण आपूर्ति	34.80	DLB2324GLOB03261

अधिशाषी अभियंता सिविल एवं प्रभारी अधिकारी (इ.र.यो. ग्रामीण प्रकोष्ठ)
आयुक्त, नगर परिषद्, सचिव व कोषाध्यक्ष, जिला स्तरीय समन्वय एवं मॉनिटरिंग समिति (इ.र.यो. ग्रामीण)
राज.संवाद/सी/23/1379

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project)
PHED Bharatpur
E-mail:- acepbpr@gmail.com, aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
Short Term Tender Notice No. 1/2023-24
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, online tender are hereby invited from eligible bidders for the work of " Work of execution of Temporary pumping arrangement scheme to supply 60MLD additional water to Karauli and Gangapur towns and to 109 villages of Package-II of Chambal-sawai madhopur-Nadoti Project including 2-year O & M after one year defect liability period" with estimated cost Rs. 999.74 Lacs, Last date of submission 09.05.2023 as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/Tender document available on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in Tender are to be submitted online in electronic format on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
UBN No:- PHE2324WL0B00492
(H.K. Agrawal)
Additional Chief Engineer (Project)
DIPRC/C/5904 PHED Bharatpur

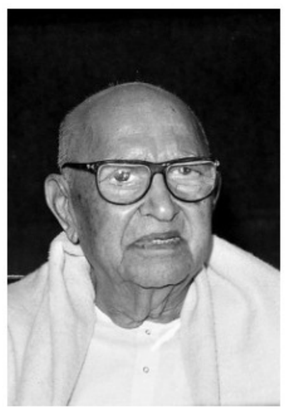
OFFICE: PRINCIPAL,GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRI GANGANAGAR
Hardeep Colony, Near Govt. Hospital distt. Sri Ganganagar(Rajasthan)
Phone: 0154-2945509; EmailID: pcm.sriganganagar@rajasthan.gov.in
Ref. No. 04 Dated: 18.04.2023
Short Terms e-Bid Invites
Bid for rate contract for One years or Less period Procurement of Job basis man power (Services) supply like Class IV/WardBoy/Helper/Nurse Grade-II, Lab Technician etc. (means Unskill and High skill Wages job Base Works) at Medical College in Sri Ganganagar, GMC, Sri Ganganagar are invited from interested GST Registered bidder's etc. upto dt. 28-4-2023 at 06.00 PM. E-Bid will be estimated value one time 3.10 Crors. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and Department Notice Board UBN:- MES2324SLRC00005
Principal and Controller
Govt. Medical College Sriganganagar
DIPR/C/5889 Rajasthan

The days of lukewarm contests

The average number of contestants in the fray remained low, with the Congress being a domineering presence, in the initial few elections in Karnataka. The elections of 1957, 1962 and 1967 had an average of three contestants per constituency. In those three elections, many Congress candidates were elected unopposed. Annarao Basappa, the Congress candidate for the Afzalpur seat was elected unopposed in 1957.

Likewise, in 1962, D.N. Patil from Talikot and Devaraj Urs from Hunsur were elected unopposed as Congress candidates. In the 1967 election, S. Nijalingappa from Shiggaon and M.Y. Ghorpade from Sandur were elected unopposed.

The average number of contestants per constituency was 13 in 2013 and 11 in 2018.



S. Nijalingappa. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Women participation

The table shows the number of all candidates, women candidates and women winners in Karnataka Assembly elections since 1978. While the number of women candidates has seen a consistent rise, the number of women winners has never exceeded 10 since 1978.

Year	Candidates	Women candidates	Women winners
1978	1165	30	8
1983	1365	34	1
1985	1795	108	8
1989	2043	78	10
1994	2497	117	7
1999	1341	62	6
2004	1715	101	6
2008	2242	107	3
2013	2948	175	6
2018	2844	219	7

Source: "Political Career Tracker for Candidates in Indian National and State Assembly Elections", Trivedi Centre for Political Data, Ashoka University

Lower share: Congress candidate Kusuma receiving B Form for the Rajarajeshwarinagar constituency from D. K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru

Vote-from-home option available for the elderly

For the first time, vote-from-home option is being given to people aged above 80 and people with disabilities. As many as 80,250 senior citizens and 19,279 people with disabilities will be voting from home this time. The highest of above-80 people voting from home will be from Dakshina Kannada.

Mr. Modi, do you not see that people flanking you on stages are steeped in corruption when you speak against corruption?

RAHUL GANDHI
Congress leader

This election, south is the coveted territory

The region, dominated by Vokkaligas, has been a JD(S) bastion, but the appointment of D.K. Shivakumar as Congress State chief now poses a threat; the BJP, yet to taste major success in the districts, has fielded some of its prominent names against Congress heavyweights and even brought in the Prime Minister and Home Minister to campaign

NEWS ANALYSIS

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

The southern Karnataka districts of the Old Mysore region have come under sharp focus in the run-up to the Assembly election, with the BJP upping the ante for a share in the electoral pie that has, so far, largely been shared by the Janata Dal(S) and the Congress.

Stretching from Chamarajanagar, at the southernmost tip of the State, to Bengaluru Rural district – through the Cauvery heartland of Mysuru, Mandya and Ramanagara districts, besides Hassan, Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Tumkur – the region comprises not only the core of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's support base but also the strongholds of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Shivakumar in Mysuru and Kanakapura, respectively.

Though the appeal of the JD(S) has remained limited in the rest of the State over the past few elections, the southern Karnataka districts dominated by Vokkaligas have stood firmly by the party. However, the appointment of Mr. Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga, as the KPCC chief is expected to pose a threat to the hold of the JD(S) in parts of the region.

Past result

The graphs show the 2018 election result in the Southern Karnataka/old Mysore region

■ During the bypolls held in 2019 and 2020 after 17 MLAs from Congress and JD(S) shifted allegiance to the BJP, the saffron party managed to win three out of the five constituencies in the Southern Karnataka region — Chikkaballapur, Sira and K. R. Pet. Two others, Hunsur and Hoskote, were won by a Congress candidate and an Independent who later joined the Congress

Crucial for BJP

Meanwhile, the BJP has come to realise that its failure to get a majority on its own in the Assembly corresponds to the party's inability to win enough seats in southern Karnataka.

The saffron party, which has set its eyes on making inroads into the region, has already organised campaign appearances by Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi who came to inaugurate the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway in Mandya. Earlier this week, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath began his campaign from Mandya.

The BJP, however, suffered a setback when it tried to build a narrative around Tipu Sultan, the erstwhile ruler of Mysuru, claiming that he was slain by Vokkaliga warriors named Uri Gowda and Doddananje Gowda. Apart from the absence of historical records to back such a claim, the disapproval of the seer of the Adichunchanagiri Math, Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji, regarding a proposal by film producer-turned-BJP Minister Munirathna to produce a movie on "Uri Gowda and Doddananje Gowda", has hit the BJP hard.

The BJP, which does not have any tall leaders in the region, has gambled by fielding Housing Minister V. Somanna, a Lingayat, against Mr. Siddaramaiah in the Varuna constituency and Revenue Minister R. Ashok, a Vokkaliga, against Mr. Shivakumar in Kanakapura.

Both, however, have been given a back-up constituency in view of the "risk" involved. Notwithstanding the outcome, the BJP's decision to field Mr. Somanna may help the party consolidate the votes of the Lingayats present in considerable numbers in parts of the region.

Multiple yatras

Poll campaigning in the region had virtually started seven months ago when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi entered Karnataka on September 30 last year as part of his Bharat Jodo Yatra. While the BJP chose to hold the national executive meeting of its Scheduled Caste Morcha in Mysuru this year, the JD(S), which led its Pancharatna Yatra, chose the city as the venue to mobilise a huge gathering for the valedictory of the Yatra.

Defending territory

During the Assembly election in 2018, the JD(S) virtually swept Mandya and Hassan districts, except for one seat bagged by the BJP. It also put up a spirited performance in Mysuru, Ramanagara and Tumkur districts, competing mostly with the Congress throughout the region and with the BJP in parts of Mysuru, Tumkur and Hassan districts.

It remains to be seen if the JD(S) continues to dominate the electoral space in the region or yields ground to the Congress, its traditional rival, and the BJP, which is making an aggressive push, in the election.

BJP holds the upper hand in three districts in the south

Sathish G.T.

The Malnad districts of Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu stand separate from the rest in southern Karnataka, given the political equations there with a clear slant to the BJP.

In Shivamogga, the BJP has gained strength gradually in every election since 1983. In 2018, it won six of seven seats in the district. In Chikkamagaluru, the BJP gained ground in the 2000s after the row over a cave shrine venerated by both Hindus and Muslims. In 2018, the party won four of the five seats in the district. A.K. Subbaiah, the first State president of the BJP, hailed from Kodagu district, and the party has grown consistently there. It won both seats in the district in 2018.

'If you vote for Janata Dal(S), it is a vote for Kannadigas'

Claiming that previous tie-ups with the BJP and Congress in the State were both bad experiences, the JD(S) leader, often termed a 'kingmaker', says there is no question of allying with either national party this time; a regional party's victory in Karnataka would send a message to all regional parties to sit and discuss and formulate in a proper way how to go into the Lok Sabha election of 2024

INTERVIEW

H.D. Kumaraswamy

Nistula Hebbar

This Assembly election in Karnataka is seen by many as critical for the survival of the Janata Dal(S), but party leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy says its strategy of starting early and focussing on constituencies where its previous margin of loss was narrow will lead the party to a clear majority. He indicates that success for a regional party in the State will bolster all regional parties in alliance negotiations in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election in 2024, but refused to speculate on future tie-ups. Edited excerpts:

How far do you agree that this is an election of existential value for your party?

This Assembly election is a very challenging one for our party and individually for me too. However, I am not bothered about the question of existence as we are present in Karnataka very safely. Whether we got 30, 40 or 38 seats, without JD(S), nobody could do anything.

But in this election, we are planning to reach out, in a practical way, to a large number of people and win 123 seats. Wherever we failed in the previous three elections, we identified all those things. We lost more than 30 to 35 constituencies within the margin of 400 to between 3,000 and 4,000 votes. This time, we are nourishing our constituencies by identifying candidates a year earlier and making sure we don't repeat our mistakes.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has termed your party as a kind of "B team" of the Congress?

This has been raised by both parties, BJP and Congress. According to me, I request the people of Karnataka, if you vote for Janata Dal(S), it is a vote for Kannadigas.

Both the BJP and the Congress are looking to expand their bases by giving ticket to Vokkaligas (BJP) and Lingayats (Congress).

Whatever number they have allotted to candidates from Vokkaliga or Lingayat communities, that is not the issue. Main thing is the strength of the candidate.

What do you make of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's efforts at forging Opposition unity?

That is premature now. Our total concentration is to get the magic number in Karnataka with our struggle. Bringing several parties together will only start after the conclusion of this poll, according to me. Once a regional party succeeds here, that will send a message to all regional parties to sit and discuss and formulate in a proper way how to go into the election of 2024.

But there was a show of unity after the last Karnataka poll of 2018 and at your swearing-in ceremony as Chief Minister...

Several friends had good relations with [former Prime Minister Deve Gowda*ji*] and that's why they came, not to discuss a united front.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always shown great respect to JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda, but it also sets off speculation that the two parties are in talks for an alliance.

Because of my father's honesty and his hard work, rising from a poor background, and the way he carried himself in his political life, he has elicited respect from many friends, including hon'ble Prime Minister.

You have allied with both the BJP and the Congress in the past. Which is worse? Will you repeat it?

Both were bad experiences. There is no question of allying with BJP or Congress. People will bless us with clear majority.

There was a major issue in Hassan, where one of your family members wanted ticket and you stood firm in your refusal.

Only some sections of society created a problem. From the beginning, I said, 'This is a family matter, we will sort it out privately.' Ultimately, this is what happened, smoothly, with a happy ending.

The BJP and Congress are approaching the poll with minutely finessed caste equations. Who plays it better?

Nobody can play the caste game. It is not going to help anyone. The BJP also childishly raised this and now they have to repent. What they announced [the new reservation policy], they haven't been able to implement successfully.

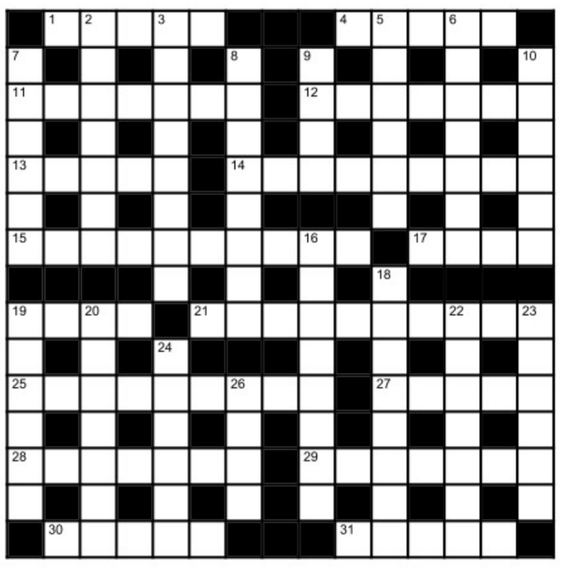
Read full interview on: bit.ly/HDKInterview

TH CROSSWORD + 13851

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Born in France, extremely dandy but poor (5)
4 Manipulate auditor's requirement (5)
11 A lawyer covering up abuse - it's evil (7)
12 Drawback in analog reporting framework (7)
13 Knocks down ornaments (5)
14 Schoenberg or Bach even captivating old leader (9)
15 Hostility amongst rivals of Lenovo (2,4,4)
17 Fumes leaving black vessels (4)
19 Switch with another product, basically! (4)
21 Reverend calling building worker for blue print (6,4)
25 Approaches and doodles alongside (5,4)
27 Bet dog left lead in grass? (5)
28 May in that place, is April, initially (7)
29 Woman folding warm cover (7)
30 Extremely foolish to consume nonsense in trivia (5)
31 Sign of vocal talent (5)

Down

2 Just husband in car initially escorted by others (7)
3 Jeering lord picked up in bar (8)
5 Country never saved rupees (6)
6 Additional info frequently stops heart attacks (7)
7 Spot of relaxation in terrible danger (6)
8 Sugar high when everything's picked up for dessert (8)
9 Strikes brought up in dispute (4)
10 Scandinavian arranged to export exquisite Indian fabric (6)
16 Player from Chennai finally starts performing outside India (8)
18 Unfair bargain that's not desirable for one buying fruits? (1,3,4)
19 Collected information mostly through watch (6)
20 Layman, essentially sure to follow American friend (7)
22 Arsonist harassing the girl? (7)
23 Shifting from South to North initially assists stress (6)
24 Worker maintains small church in hill (6)
26 Fell over marks in test (4)

SUDOKU

7								8
5	4				2			
		2		1	6	7		
3					8		6	
1				4				5
	5		2					9
		4	5	6		2		
			3				8	1
2								6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS5782 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

B	O	L	D	E	R	T	E	M
H	A	M	H	U	A	E		
F	A	S	T	E	V	I	S	C
N	I	R	G	L	A	I		
E	G	G	N	O	G	H	A	I
R			E	I	D	O	U	
G	A	B	A	R	D	I	N	E
		T		T		I		
R	O	T	I	R	E	P	L	A
A	I	T	N	O		E		
S	M	O	T	H	E	R	S	C
P	U	N	I	U	E	A		
C	A	N	D	I	D	A	T	E
N	E	O	Y	T	R	D		
T	I	S	A	N	E	I	S	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	3	8	7	6	1	9	2
6	8	7	2	1	9	5	4	3
1	9	2	5	3	4	8	7	6
3	2	4	7	5	8	9	6	1
9	1	8	6	4	2	7	3	5
7	6	5	1	9	3	4	2	8
8	5	6	4	2	7	3	1	9
2	7	9	3	8	1	6	5	4
4	3	1	9	6	5	2	8	7

FAITH

Hanuman: revered by all

Why is Hanuman celebrated and revered by people of all age groups and regions? He makes an entry in the Ramayana somewhere in the middle of the proceedings. Yet, by the end of all the happenings of epic proportion, Hanuman grows in stature, even larger than Rama: this kind of real Viswarooppam is unparalleled and there are many lessons to be learnt from a reading of Hanuman, said Dr. Sudha Seshayyan in a discourse.

Once, S.S. Vasan and Kalki Krishnamurthy travelled to Srirangapatna and visited Tipu Sultan's samadhi. Kalki is said to have been so moved by the workmanship that he said, "Poor Tipu. It is such a fabulous work and he isn't lucky enough to see it himself." This is an echo of Kamban's portrayal of Hanuman's feelings. When he reaches Ashoka Vana in search of Sita, Hanuman reduces himself to the size of an ordinary monkey in order to not frighten Sita. As he sits on a branch to observe Sita, he is immediately moved. Kamban says, "My eyes are blessed to behold her grace, but poor Rama isn't. He is not here to see her like this."

Good at reading minds, Hanuman is the best diplomat ever. When he returns to Rama from mission Lanka, he finds Rama and Sugreeva sitting and facing south – the scouts from other directions have all returned empty handed. Without articulating anything, Hanuman turns southwards, lifts his arms above his head and prays. Immediately Rama realises two things, says Kamban, One, Sita is in Lanka and two she is safe and unmolested by Ravana. His relationship with Rama starts as a dasya and progresses to one of companion and of family.

NEW YORK

Legendary U.S. talk show host Jerry Springer dies aged 79

AFP

Longtime U.S. talk show host Jerry Springer, whose programme became a symbol of low brow television with its on-air fights and swearing, has died at the age of 79, U.S. media reported on Thursday. Mr. Springer died peacefully at his home in Chicago after "a brief illness," *TMZ* cited a family spokesperson as saying. AFP

KARACHI

Seven killed in unexplained fire on passenger train in south Pakistan

AFP

At least seven people were killed after a car on a moving passenger train caught fire overnight in southern Pakistan, officials said on Thursday, adding that the cause remained unclear. Poor passengers often bring their own small gas stoves on the trains to cook their meals, throwing safety regulations to the wind. AP

NAIROBI

Another Kenyan pastor accused of 'mass killing of his followers'

REUTERS

Kenya on Thursday said that one of the country's highest-profile pastors would face charges over the "mass killing of his followers". Ezekiel Odero, the head of the New Life Prayer Centre and Church, "has been arrested and is being processed to face criminal charges related to the mass killing of his followers," officials said. AFP

BRUSSELS

Ukraine received 1,550 armoured vehicles, 230 tanks: NATO chief

REUTERS

NATO allies and partners have provided Ukraine with 1,550 armoured vehicles and 230 tanks to form units and help it retake territory from Russian forces, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said on Thursday. The deliveries represent "more than 98% of the combat vehicles promised to Ukraine", Mr. Stoltenberg said. AFP

Probe Khalistani extremism, review panel urges U.K. govt.

Report calls for a nuanced understanding of subversive activity; on Hindu nationalism, it says, the government should be 'attentive' to nationalist movements inciting prejudice in British society

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

A review commissioned by the U.K. government to examine its engagement with faith urged the government to investigate Khalistani extremism and suggested that it develops a more "nuanced" and "comprehensive" understanding of Sikh extremist activity so it does not accidentally legitimise behaviours.

The review's publication, on Wednesday, comes at a time of heightened diplomatic tension between the U.K. and India, with New Delhi alleging that London has not done enough to curb the Khalistani movement in the U.K. Pro-Khalistani activists had taken down the National Flag from the Indian High Commission building in London during a protest in March.

The wide-ranging review, authored by an independent adviser, Colin Bloom, and commissioned by the Boris Johnson government in October 2019, also described a "small minority" of British Hindus as becoming more animated as a result of their identification with Hindu political interests in India. It urged the U.K. government to be "attentive" to nationalist movements inciting prejudice in British society.

The Bloom review had 22 recommendations which ranged from combating White supremacism and forced marriages to training public servants to better understand faith.

Fuelled rage: Activists of the Khalistan movement protesting outside the Indian High Commission in London in March. AP

The section on Sikh extremism begins with the "overwhelmingly positive" contributions Sikhs have made to British society. The report identifies three problematic areas however: a power struggle within some Sikh communities around the question of who legitimately represents them; the Khalistani movement – which the report describes as an "extremist fringe ideology"; and some individuals and Sikh groups fuelling anti-Muslim sentiments, misogyny and sectarianism.

On Khalistani extremists, the study says they have been known to incite violence and intimidation to achieve their goals. About their quest for a separate homeland, the report says, "Interestingly, this territorial claim does not include the part of the Punjab located in Pakistan. It is not entirely clear if the motivation for these extremists is faith-based or not."

The report says some groups compete for power and legitimacy by masquerading as human rights activists, and use the 'Sikh' label to lobby political bodies. It says Sikh extremists have used online platforms such as Facebook and YouTube to upload "alarmingly dangerous and offensive imagery".

The report says the U.K. government needs to clearly define and investigate extremist activity within the Sikh community and develop a "more nuanced and comprehensive" understanding of subversive and sectarian activity.

It urges the government to not inadvertently legitimise Sikh extremism via "government or parliamentary engagement". It advocates improving faith literacy (especially on interfaith issues) across government and parliament.

Significantly, the report says that "the promotion of Khalistan ideals is not itself subversive", but the aggressive and subversive actions of some pro-Khalistan activists "should not be tolerated".

Hindu nationalism

"Government should also be much more alive to the very small but growing phenomenon of extreme Hindu nationalism and Buddhist nationalism," the review says.

It says a "small minority" of British Hindus are becoming more passionate about their identification with Hindu political interests in India, in contrast to earlier generations of British Hindus, as nationalist movements have become "somewhat more" prevalent among the British Hindu diaspora. It cites as examples public figures and politicians allegedly being targeted in the 2019 U.K. general election and the tensions between Hindus and Muslims in Leicester in September 2022.

"While this has rarely led to obvious coercive or violent activity, some British Hindus have expressed frustration with Hindu nationalist involvement in U.K. politics, which can create division within Indian communities in the U.K.," the report says.

The report says that while many groups are likely to be interested in geopolitical disputes outside the U.K., the British government should be "attentive" to nationalist movements possibly exploiting religious rhetoric to incite prejudice, which in turn may destabilise British society.

Iran's Navy seizes oil tanker in Gulf of Oman

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran's Navy seized a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman on Thursday amid wider tensions over Tehran's nuclear programme, the latest-such capture in a waterway crucial for global energy supplies.

The Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet identified the vessel as the Advantage Sweet.

Satellite tracking data for the vessel from MarineTraffic.com showed it in the Gulf of Oman, just north of Oman's capital, Muscat, on Thursday afternoon. It had just come from Kuwait and listed its destination as Houston, Texas.

Human rights abuse: U.S. sanctions ex-Navy official of Sri Lanka

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

The U.S. has sanctioned former senior Sri Lankan Navy Commander Wasantha Karannagoda for "gross violation" of human rights during the brutal conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), evoking a strong reaction from Colombo which said the "unilateral" move was "counter-productive".

The 70-year-old former Navy Commander from 2005 to 2009 is the second senior defence official of such stature to be sanctioned by the U.S. for human rights violations during the final battle with the LTTE in 2009.

Mr. Karannagoda is currently a Governor of a province in the island nation.

Wasantha Karannagoda

"The U.S. continues to seek truth and justice for victims of the Sri Lankan civil war," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement on Wednesday.

The main Tamil party in Sri Lanka, the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), welcomed the U.S. move.

Israeli Army kills alleged Palestinian attacker

Associated Press
RAMALLAH

Israeli security forces said they shot and killed a suspected Palestinian assailant in the West Bank on Thursday, stirring tensions in the occupied territory at a time of unusually high violence.

The Israeli military said it received reports that a Palestinian had tried to carry out a car-ramming attack near the West Bank settlement of Ariel. Soldiers opened fire at the suspected assailant after they realised he was wielding a knife, the military added. The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the man killed as 39-year-old Ahmed Taha from the Palestinian village of Salfit.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : Re-e-Tender No 20,21,22/2023-24/ SE/PHC/ALP, KIIFB -Kuttanadu Drinking Water Project -Alappuzha District.-Package I- Construction of Intake structure cum Pump house, Laying of Raw water and Clear water pumping main, Construction of 30 MLD WTP and allied works. Construction of 6 LL OHSR at Thakazhi and Supply and laying of distribution network at Edathua, Veeyapuram, Thalavady and Thakazhy.-Pipeline Work, Package V-Construction of OHSRs, Supply and laying of distribution network at Muttar ,Veliyanadu, Neelamperoor and rehabilitation of existing OHSRs at Muttar, Veliyanad and Neelamperoor.-, **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs.19,518/-, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 15-05-2023 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 0477-2237954.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-150-2023-24 PH Circle, Alappuzha

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(POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY SCIENCES & RESEARCH)
NABH Accredited (an autonomous centre under Government of Kerala
Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala - 670 103,Phone :+91 490 2399207, 2355881
Fax: 91 490 2355880,Email: mcctly@gmail.com, Web: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in
MCC/3082/2020-CCT-ACADEMIC 24/04/2023
IMMEDIATELY WANTED – SENIOR RESIDENTS
Malabar Cancer Centre invites online applications for the post of Senior Residents (on contract) in Clinical Hematology & Medical Oncology and Anesthesiology.The last date for submitting online application is 08/05/2023 at 05.00 PM. Details are available in www.mcc.kerala.gov.in Sd/- Director

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED JAIPUR REGION-II, JAIPUR
Email:- aceregion2jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
Phone No.: 0141-2702700
No.:- ACE-II/Ar.(N)/2023-24/566-94 Date:- 17.04.23
Notice Inviting Bid 04/2023-24
Bids for "Rate Contract for Work of Construction and commisssioning of 200mm diameter Tube wells, including material and defect liability under the Jurisdiction of District Rural Div 1st, Jaipur" are invited from interested bidders upto 6:00 P.M. dated 08.05.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. The approximate value of the procurement in Rs 250.00 Lac.
PHE2324WSOB00568
Additional Chief Engineer
PHED Jaipur Region-II, Jaipur
DIPR/C/5913

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त-भरतपुर
क्रमांक : 97 दिनांक : 17.04.2023
निविदा सूचना संख्या : 01 / 2023-24
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से जिला भरतपुर में नगरीय निकाय योजनान्तर्गत कुल 06 पैकेज निर्माण कार्य (दोष निवरण अवधि 5 वर्ष सहित) के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग / रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं "www.sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता हैं। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक हैं।
NIB No. PWD2324A0140

PWD2324WLRC00579	PWD2324WLRC00580	PWD2324WLRC00581
PWD2324WLRC00582	PWD2324WLRC00583	PWD2324WLRC00585

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
DIPR/C/5925/23 सा.नि.वि. वृत्त - भरतपुर

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा
क्रमांक : 178 दिनांक : 20.04.2023
संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या- 23/2022-23
इस कार्यालय के निविदा सूचना संख्या- 23/2022-23 के पत्रांक 4380 दिनांक 17.03.2023 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र.सं.	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावे
1	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख **28.03.2023 से 26.04.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे** तक	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख **28.03.2023 से 01.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे** तक
2	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख **28.03.2023 से 26.04.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे** तक	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख **28.03.2023 से 01.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे** तक
3	ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख **28.04.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे** तक	ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख **03.05.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे** तक
4	बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद हेतु 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से **दिनांक 26.04.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड अकलेरा** के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं **निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents)** शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।	बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद हेतु 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से **दिनांक 01.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड अकलेरा** के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं **निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents)** शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
UBN No. PWD2223WLOB18855
(नारायण सिंह मीणा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
DIPR/C/5833/23 सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा
क्रमांक : 180 दिनांक : 20.04.2023
संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या- 26/2022-23
इस कार्यालय के निविदा सूचना संख्या- 26/2022-23 के पत्रांक 4470 दिनांक 24.03.2023 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र.सं.	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावे
1	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख **03.04.2023 से 24.04.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे** तक	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख **03.04.2023 से 01.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे** तक
2	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख **03.04.2023 से 24.04.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे** तक	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख **03.04.2023 से 01.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे** तक
3	ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख **26.04.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे** तक	ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख **03.05.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे** तक
4	बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से **दिनांक 24.04.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक सम्बन्धित अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड** के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं **निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents)** शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।	बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से **दिनांक 01.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक सम्बन्धित अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड** के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं **निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents)** शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑन लाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। **UBN No.** PWD2223WLOB19628, PWD2223WLOB19629, PWD2223WLOB19630
(नारायण सिंह मीणा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
DIPR/C/5835/23 सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

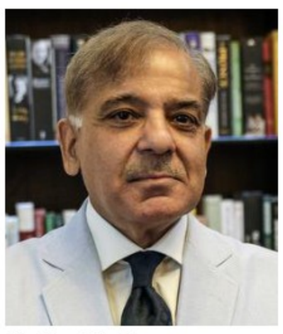
Sharif secures vote of confidence in Pak. National Assembly

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday secured a vote of confidence from the National Assembly, with 180 lawmakers expressing "full confidence" in his leadership, in a surprise development amid an increasing confrontation between the government and the top judiciary.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, the chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party, tabled a resolution in the Lower House stating that the National Assembly of Pakistan "reposes its full confidence in the leadership of" Prime Minister Sharif.

Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf ordered voting which was conducted with lawmakers rising from their seats in favour of adopting the resolution. The resolution was supported by 180 lawmakers in the 342-member National Assembly.



Shehbaz Sharif

The symbolic vote of confidence is an indication that the Prime Minister enjoys the full confidence of the lawmakers when it is feared that the Supreme Court may target the PM for allegedly not implementing the directives to provide Rs. 21 billion for provincial elections.

Air strikes pummel Khartoum as clock ticks on Sudan truce

Agence France-Presse
KHARTOUM

The Sudanese Army pounded paramilitaries in Khartoum with air strikes on Thursday while deadly fighting flared in Darfur, as Washington sought to extend an "imperfect" U.S.-brokered ceasefire for three more days.

There have been multiple truce efforts since fighting broke out on April 15 between Sudan's Army led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commanded by his deputy turned rival, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. All have failed.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington was "very actively working to extend the ceasefire" between the warring Generals. "We've had a 72-hour ceasefire, which like most ceasefires is imperfect but nonetheless has reduced violence. And that's obviously created somewhat better conditions for people in Sudan," he told reporters.

General Burhan on Wednesday said he would consider a proposal by the East African IGAD bloc for another three-day ceasefire when the current truce formally expires at midnight, but no further details have been released and the RSF's response to the proposal is unclear.

On Thursday, warplanes patrolled over the capital's northern suburbs as fighters on the ground exchanged artillery and heavy machine gun fire, witnesses said.

At least 512 people have been killed and 4,193 wounded in the fighting, according to Health Ministry figures.

INBRIEF

Air India to hire 1,000 pilots as part of fleet expansion

Air India will hire more than 1,000 pilots, including captains and trainers, as the Tata Group-owned airline expands its fleet and network, according to an advertisement on Thursday. "We are offering multiple opportunities and accelerated growth across our A320, B777, B787 and B737 fleet for captains and first officers, as well as trainers," the airline said, adding that more than 500 aircraft were joining its fleet. PTI

Tech Mahindra Q4 net profit declines 25.8% to ₹1,118 crore

Tech Mahindra reported consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter of FY23 declined 25.8% to ₹1,118 crore, from ₹1,545 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenue at ₹13,718.2 crore was a decline of 0.1% quarter-on-quarter and an increase of 13.2% year-on-year. For the entire fiscal, the company's revenue grew at 19.4% to ₹53,290 crore. The board recommended a final dividend of ₹32 per share, taking the total dividend for FY23 to ₹50 per share.

LTIMindtree Q4 net is little changed at ₹1,114 crore

LTIMindtree on Thursday reported Q4 net profit was little changed at ₹1,114 crore as against ₹1,108 crore in the year-earlier period. Total revenue from operations grew 22% to ₹8,691 crore against ₹7,128 crore in the same period of last year. In dollar terms, the company's revenue was $1.05 billion, a 12% increase year-on-year and 1% growth QoQ. For the full year, the company's operating margin stood at 16.2% with net profit for FY23 rising 12% to ₹4,410 crore.

Das urges lenders to continually assess risks, bolster capital buffers

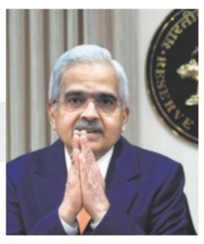
RBI chief cites financial instability in some advanced economies to stress need to boost liquidity buffers beyond regulatory minimum; central bank Governor says lenders can thereby ensure continued organisational resilience and sustain growth

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

On guard

RBI Governor exhorts banks to reappraise risks at frequent intervals and build adequate capital and liquidity buffers

- Flags likelihood of risks cropping up from segments of a bank's balance sheet which may have hitherto been considered relatively safer
- Recent stress test results show Indian banking sector has remained resilient
- Gross NPA ratio for SCBs was 4.41% at end December, down from 5.8% on March 31, 2022, and 7.3% on March 31, 2021



Flagging the recent financial instability in some advanced economies, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has urged bank boards to continually assess the financial risks and build enough capital buffers to remain resilient and sustain growth.

"The recent events in the banking landscape of the U.S. and Europe suggest that risks for an individual bank could crop up from segments of its balance sheet which might have been considered relatively safer," Mr. Das observed in his address at a Global Conference on Financial Resilience.

"Hence, we expect the management and Board of Directors of each bank to continually assess the financial risks and focus on building up adequate capital and liquidity buffers even beyond the regulatory minimum for continued resilience and sustainable growth," he said.

Mr. Das stressed that as a consequence of measures taken by the RBI and the banks, the Indian banking system had remained resilient and had not been affected adversely by the recent 'sparks of financial instability' seen in some advanced economies. "This also comes out clearly in our recent stress test results," he added.

Banks' asset quality had improved, he said. Gross NPA ratio for scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) was 4.41% at end December, down from 5.8% as on March 31, 2022, and 7.3% on March 31, 2021.

"Macro stress tests for credit risk indicate that SCBs would be able to comply with the minimum capital requirements even under severe stress scenarios," Mr. Das emphasised.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,649	0.58
US Dollar	81.79	-0.06
Gold	61,120	0.13
Brent oil	77.87	-3.30

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1853.05	5.15
Adani Ports	659.75	-4.95
Apollo Hosp	4417.50	7.10
Asian Paints	2899.95	-10.05
Axis Bank	881.40	-6.25
Bajaj Auto	4408.20	109.20
Bajaj Finserv	1360.00	25.30
Bajaj Finance	6200.05	144.10
Bharti Airtel	786.50	13.05
BPCL	355.65	6.65
Britannia Ind	4415.85	10.85
Cipla	913.95	2.85
Coal India	231.75	2.00
Divis Lab	3238.45	18.45
Dr Reddys Lab	4918.55	73.45
Eicher Motors	3263.55	15.20
Grasim Ind	1701.40	2.25
HCL Tech	1071.25	5.70
HDFC	2772.90	11.45
HDFC Bank	1681.00	9.20
HDFC Life	517.85	-13.75
Hero MotoCorp	2508.65	3.50
Hindalco	430.80	6.00
Hind Unilever	2468.95	-41.85
ICICI Bank	918.35	3.40
IndusInd Bank	1144.75	6.95
Infosys	1246.25	18.70
ITC	416.00	3.75
JSW Steel	732.10	8.65
Kotak Bank	1908.60	30.00
L&T	2305.60	29.45
M&M	1224.00	10.45
Maruti Suzuki	8542.95	36.05
NestleIndia	21147.30	121.05
NTPC	170.95	1.10
ONGC	160.05	-1.10
PowerGrid Corp	235.95	-2.35
Reliance Ind	2377.05	14.95
SBI Life	1137.05	18.75
State Bank	564.75	-1.60
Sun Pharma	978.70	7.45
TataConsumerProduct	754.00	7.30
Tata Motors	481.60	3.40
Tata Steel	107.65	0.80
TCS	3187.95	-10.20
Tech Mahindra	1003.15	6.85
Titan	2663.45	22.45
UltraTech Cement	7500.90	44.00
UPL	727.20	11.85
Wipro	374.40	-0.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 27

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.64	81.96
Euro	90.17	90.53
British Pound	101.74	102.15
Japanese Yen (100)	61.06	61.32
Chinese Yuan	11.79	11.84
Swiss Franc	91.46	91.82
Singapore Dollar	61.12	61.37
Canadian Dollar	59.88	60.14
Malaysian Ringitt	18.30	18.37
Australian Dollar	54.01	54.23

Source:Indian Bank

Rules for gold import from UAE eased: Govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday decided to call for fresh applications to import gold at concessional tariffs from the United Arab Emirates, after changes were made to the eligibility norms that allowed just manufacturers and jewellers to use this window.

Director General of Foreign Trade Santosh Sarangi said on Thursday that easing these restrictions was already under discussion with the Department of Revenue when an export facilitation committee (EFC) met on March 23 to consider applicants for availing the 140 metric tonnes of gold import quota available for this year.

The UAE had requested India to review the restrictions imposed on gold imports by non-manufacturing players as they were posing a trade barrier even after a free trade pact between the two countries.

U.S. Q1 GDP expands 1.1% as firms rein in inventories

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. economic growth slowed more than expected in the first quarter as an acceleration in consumer spending was offset by businesses cutting back on inventory investment in anticipation of weaker demand this year amid higher borrowing costs.

Gross domestic product grew at a 1.1% annualised rate, the government said in its advance estimate of first-quarter GDP growth. The economy expanded 2.6% in the fourth quarter.

HUL Q4 net increases 10% to ₹2,552 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sanjiv Mehta

Hindustan Unilever Ltd. reported standalone fourth quarter net profit grew 10% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹2,552 crore. Revenue from sale of products rose to ₹14,638 crore from ₹13,190 crore.

For FY23, revenue from sale of products grew 16% to ₹58,154 crore with underlying volume growth of 5%. Net profit rose 13% y-o-y to ₹9,962 crore.

The board has recommended a final dividend of ₹22 per share on each equity share of ₹1 each.

Together with interim dividend of ₹17 per share, the total dividend for FY23 amounts to ₹39 per share.

"Looking forward, the near-term operating environment is likely to remain volatile," said Sanjiv Mehta, CEO and MD. "Market volumes will recover gradually as consumption habits readjust," he added.

Wipro Q4 net dips 0.4%, sees fall in Q1 IT services revenue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Wipro Ltd. reported a 0.4% year-on-year decline in fourth-quarter net profit at ₹3,074 crore, from ₹3,087 crore in the corresponding period in the last fiscal.

In Q4, the IT services firm posted a revenue of ₹23,190 crore, a 11.2% increase from ₹20,860 crore in the year-earlier period.

For 2022-23, it reported a revenue of $11.2 billion, a growth of 11.5% in constant currency (CC) terms over the previous fiscal. Also, revenue from IT services, which accounts for more than 95% of its gross revenue, was $2.82 billion in the fourth quarter, a 0.6% dip from the preceding quarter in CC terms.

Thierry Delaporte

"We closed FY23 with the strongest-ever bookings recorded in a year," said Thierry Delaporte, CEO and Managing Director. "We delivered two consecutive quarters of total bookings of over $4.1 billion. Our large deal order booking grew by 155% year-over-year for the quarter," he added.

"We continue to maintain our focus on operational improvements and productivity enhancements which led to our IT services margin exit at 16.3% in Q4 despite macro headwinds," said Chief Financial Officer Jatin Dalal. "We generated strong operating cash flows at 121% of our net income for the quarter," he added.

Forecasts revenue fall

Despite strong deal bookings, Wipro foresees a fall in revenue in the quarter ending June 30.

"We expect revenue from our IT services business including India state run enterprise... to be in the range of $2,753 million - $2,811 million. This translates to sequential guidance of -3% to -1% in CC terms," Mr. Dalal added.

Axis Bank has Q4 loss of ₹5,728 cr. due to Citi deal

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Axis Bank Ltd. reported fourth-quarter net loss of ₹5,728.42 crore on account of one-time non-recurring items aggregating to ₹12,490 crore due to the acquisition of Citibank India's Consumer Business. The bank had reported net profit of ₹4,117.77 crore in the same period last year.

However, the bank said net profit excluding one-time exceptional item grew 61% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹6,625 crore. During the quarter, net interest income (NII) rose 33% YoY.

The Board has recommended a dividend of ₹1 per equity share.

Laurus Labs Q4 net profit slumps 54% to ₹107.24 crore

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Laurus Labs' consolidated net profit slumped almost 54% for the March quarter to ₹107.24 crore as revenue from the key generic FDF and CDMO-Synthesis business segments were lower compared with the year-earlier period.

Revenue from operations declined 3% to ₹1,380.90 crore. The Q4 performance came on the back of a steep fall in CDMO revenues and higher upfront cost of capex as well as research and development projects, executive director and CFO V.V. Ravi Kumar said.

Godrej Consumer to buy Raymond's FMCG business for ₹2,825 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. will acquire the FMCG business of Raymond Consumer Care Ltd. (RCCL) for ₹2,825 crore.

The FMCG business, which includes brands such as Park Avenue Deo and Kamasutra, have been sold through slump sale.

RCCL would, however, retain its condom manufacturing facility and continue contract manufacturing in Aurangabad, Maharashtra for both local and international markets.

Raymond Ltd. meanwhile has demerged the lifestyle business and merged it with RCCL.

"The move to demerge the lifestyle business from Raymond Ltd. will enable the business to be net debt free and become an independently listed entity," the company said.

"Post demerger, Raymond Ltd. would primarily be a listed real estate company with investments in engineering and denim business," the company said.

The lifestyle business, that now moves to RCCL, would be listed and each shareholder of Raymond Ltd. would get four shares of RCCL for every five shares held based on the swap ratio suggested by independent valuers.

IHCL Q4 net profit surges fourfold to ₹328 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (IHCL) reported fourth-quarter consolidated net profit surged fourfold to ₹328 crore following robust performance.

Revenue grew 73% to ₹1,655 crore. For FY23, IHCL swung to a net profit of ₹1,003 crore from a loss of ₹264.9 crore in FY22, thus helping the Tata Group entity to offset COVID-19 losses. Revenue at ₹5,949 crore grew 85%.

"IHCL achieved an industry-leading EBITDA margin and PAT of over ₹1,000 crore," said MD and CEO Puneet Chhatwal.

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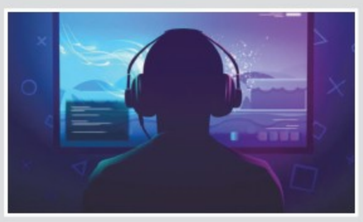

Despite recent changes, the IT Rules remain fuzzy, putting online gaming and gambling into one basket. Will MeitY bring clarity to the definitions? Or is this an escape route for real money gaming companies to avoid too close a scrutiny?

The war within.
As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ultra right-wing partners push for more extreme measures, Israel faces its toughest test yet: trying to reconcile its Jewish identity with its claims to democracy.

Vivan Sundaram.
Remembering one of India's iconic artists, whose persona and works radically changed the art landscape, with a tribute and a photo essay of his works.

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BIG BLOW

Injured Washington Sundar to miss rest of IPL 2023

Sunrisers Hyderabad all-rounder Washington Sundar was on Thursday ruled out of the remainder of this IPL due to a hamstring injury, dealing a big blow to the struggling team. The franchise announced Sundar's injury and his unavailability for the rest of the IPL. The TN player had also faced injury during the last IPL.

JUST NOT CRICKET!

Roy fined for Code of Conduct breach in KKR-RCB match

Kolkata Knight Riders opener Jason Roy was on Wednesday fined 10% of his match fee for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct. The English opener, who set the foundation for KKR's win with a 29-ball 56, has admitted to the breach. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding.

UNDER THE PUMP

We really needed that victory, says Russell on KKR's win over RCB

KKR all-rounder Andre Russell was relieved after his team's win over RCB on Wednesday. "We really needed that victory. We have been under the pump the last couple of games and once we got a good total on the board, our goal was to keep their PowerPlay under 55. We were able to pull it back in the middle," said Russell.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Suyash has always put his hand up and said he will do the job: Nitish

Skipper Nitish Rana hailed young spinner Suyash Sharma who has been the find of the season for KKR. Suyash has always put his hand up and taken responsibility, according to Nitish. "He has always put his hand up and said he will do the job. We tell him not to look at who is batting and just focus on his bowling," said Nitish.

Rajasthan Royals does the double over Super Kings

Jaiswal blasts a 43-ball 77 to help Samson's men seize the initiative before Jurel and Padikkal's cameos pilot the team to 202; Ruturaj and Dube's efforts not enough as Dhoni's side falls short

IPL-16

P.K. Ajith Kumar
JAIPUR

Never had the score touched 200 at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in the 15-year history of the IPL. On Thursday night it did.

And there could not have been a more special occasion – it was the 200th match of Rajasthan Royals.

It became even more special as Royals defeated Chennai Super Kings by 32 runs. It was Royals' second win against Super Kings this season and helped the Men in Pink displace the Men in Yellow at the top of the table.

Riding on an elegant knock by Yashasvi Jaiswal (77, 43b, 8x4, 4x6), Royals piled up 202 for five. The previous best score in an IPL match at this venue was the 197 for five the host made against Deccan Chargers in 2012.

A player from that game featured in this too and has, in fact, lit up this edition with a stunning makeover of his batting. Ajinkya Rahane scored 44 in that match which Royals won, but this game wasn't a memorable one for him.

It, however, was a day to remember for the man Rahane caught at backward point.

Jaiswal, who is having a breakthrough season, was truly magnificent on this night. The left-hander began by sweetly striking the first two balls of the innings past the boundary line on the off-side, as he made use of the half-volleys from Akash Singh. A dot ball later, Jaiswal flicked him past mid-wicket for another four.

He put on 86 for the first wicket with Jos Buttler (27, 21b, 4x4). Later on, Dhruv Jurel (34, 15b, 3x4, 2x6) and Devdutt Padikkal (27 not out, 13b, 5x4) came up with crucial knocks to take Royals to a record score at the ground. Super Kings suffered an early setback in their chase as Adam Zampa, in only his third match of the season, removed the in-form Devon Conway cheaply.

The Australian leggie also accounted for Ruturaj Gaikwad (47, 29b, 5x4, 1x6). R. Ashwin dismissed Rahane and Impact Player Ambati Rayudu as Super Kings slid to 73 for four. Shivam Dube (52, 33b, 2x4, 4x6) then waged a lone battle, but could not spoil Royals' party.

Authoritative show: Jaiswal tore the Super Kings bowlers apart with some delightful shots before Zampa put the brakes on Chennai's chase. SPORTZPICS/IPL

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Rahane b Deshpande 77 *(43b, 8x4, 4x6)*, Jos Buttler c Dube b Jadeja 27 *(21b, 4x4)*, Sanju Samson c Ruturaj b Deshpande 17 *(17b, 1x4)*, Shimron Hetmyer b Theekshana 8 *(10b)*, Dhruv Jurel run out 34 *(15b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal (not out) 27 *(13b, 5x4)*, R. Ashwin (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-3, w-4): 11; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 202.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-86 (Buttler, 8.2 overs), 2-125 (Samson, 13.1), 3-132 (Jaiswal, 13.5), 4-146 (Hetmyer, 16.1), 5-194 (Jurel, 19.3).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING
Akash 2-0-32-0, Deshpande 4-0-42-2, Theekshana 4-0-24-1, Jadeja 4-0-32-1, Moeen 2-0-17-0, Pathirana 4-0-48-0.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Ruturaj Gaikwad c Padikkal b Zampa 47 *(29b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Devon Conway c Sandeep b Zampa 8 *(16b, 1x4)*, Ajinkya Rahane c Buttler b Ashwin 15 *(13b)*, Shivam Dube c Buttler b Kuldip 52 *(33b, 2x4, 4x6)*, Ambati Rayudu **(Impact Player in place of Akash)** c Holder b Ashwin 0 *(2b)*, Moeen Ali c Samson b Zampa 23 *(12b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 23 *(15b, 3x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 170.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-42 (Conway, 5.6), 2-69 (Ruturaj, 9.2), 3-73 (Rahane, 10.2), 4-73 (Rayudu, 10.4), 5-124 (Moeen, 14.5), 6-170 (Dube, 19.6).

ROYALS BOWLING
Sandeep 4-0-24-0, Kuldip **(Impact Player in place of Hetmyer)** 3-0-18-1, Holder 4-0-49-0, Ashwin 4-0-35-2, Zampa 3-0-22-3, Chahal 2-0-21-0.

Toss: Royals; **PoM:** Jaiswal.
Royals won by 32 runs.

Next assignment

CSK: April 30 **vs. PBKS**
Chennai, 3.30 p.m.

RR: April 30 **vs. MI**
Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

200 and 200
Royals became the first team to score 200 or more at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur
The Rajasthan side couldn't have timed it better as it was playing its 200th IPL game

PBKS, LSG look to brighten their playoff chances

S. Dipak Ragav
MOHALI

Punjab Kings would look to get the better of Lucknow Super Giants for the second time this year when the two sides meet in a clash of the mid-table teams here at the I.S. Bindra Stadium on Friday.

In the earlier meeting between the two sides in Lucknow, PBKS prevailed in the last over, chasing 160. Both teams are on eight points, with Lucknow in fourth place – ahead on net run rate – while Punjab is sixth.

Dhawan could return

Meanwhile, Kings' spin-bowling coach Sunil Joshi sounded optimistic about skipper Shikhar Dhawan's chance of playing on Friday. Dhawan missed the last three outings due to a shoulder niggle. The opener's return will be a massive boost for the home team's top-order, which has looked vulnerable.

The fight for the playoff berths is heating up. This year, the sides are evenly matched and minor missteps could have enormous consequences. It is something LSG learnt the hard way when it botched up an easy run-chase against Gujarat Titans last weekend to lose by seven runs.

From a position of strength, the Super Giants' batters made a mess of things against some tight bowling from the Titans on a slow-paced pitch.

K.L. Rahul – despite scoring 68 – came under the scanner again for his slow strike-rate, and the Lucknow skipper will look to silence his critics on a pitch that could be better for the batters.

With seven matches done, both teams will look to start the second half of their campaigns on a positive note, as a win here will brighten their chances of finishing in the top four.

Lethal: Arshdeep has been brilliant at the death. R.V. MOORTHY

Today's match

PBKS vs. LSG
Mohali, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 2
PBKS 1 | LSG 1

PREVIOUS MEETING
PBKS won by **two wickets**, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

The journey that helped mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy rediscover his mojo

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

The popular theory is that a 'mystery spinner' not named Rashid Khan either dies a quick death or slowly slips into in-consequence. The most famous example is Sri Lankan Ajantha Mendis, who bamboozled batters for a couple of years before disappearing into thin air.

In last year's Indian Premier League, that fate had seemingly befallen Kolkata Knight Riders' Varun Chakravarthy.

Where he had scalped 18 wickets en route KKR's run to the final in 2021, he had just six wickets to show in 2022. Ingloriously, he was even benched for a few matches and soon lost his spot in the Indian National team.

The current season has been one of rediscovery for Varun.

The 31-year-old has already picked up 13 wickets from just eight matches (average: 18.38). Seven of those have come across two thumping wins against Royal Challengers Bangalore, including the one on Wednesday where he was the player of the match (4-0-27-3).

Varun in IPL-16 so far

K. MURALI KUMAR

Matches	8
Wickets	13
BBI	4/15
Econ	8.05
4W	1

4-0-26-1	vs. PBKS
3.4-0-15-4	vs. RCB
2-0-27-0	vs. GT
4-0-41-1	vs. SRH
4-0-38-1	vs. MI
4-1-16-2	vs. DC
4-0-49-1	vs. CSK
4-0-27-3	vs. RCB

Confidence

"You have to be confident every ball you bowl. if you slip in your confidence, the effort is not going to translate into your bowling," Varun said after the win. "I watched some videos of the previous matches I played against RCB. I could see the technical aspects of their batters and I focused on that."

It's not that he wasn't as meticulous in 2022. But his desire to evolve and try more variations - like giving the ball more air and slowing down his run-up - didn't fetch the expected results.

T20 bowling is indeed about disruption and a bowler who bowls six balls at the same spot - a desirable quality in Tests - is flirting with danger. But the requirement to hit the perfect length is non-negotiable.

"In the off-season, I worked on my accuracy rather than my variations," Varun explained.

"Another aspect I focused on was revolutions on the ball. I was working with A.C. Prathiban, a spin coach back in Chennai.

"In terms of tactics, whatever Abhishek Nayar tells always works for me. So they both have played a big role in my comeback. I also played Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy and that definitely helped me prepare for the IPL."

It perhaps helps that Varun plays for KKR, an outfit that has always backed the unorthodox. Sunil Narine is in his 12th season with the club and Kuldeep Yadav played for five years.

This campaign, it has unearthed the 19-year-old Suyash Sharma, who Varun thinks is a future India player. It is a habitable sweet spot and Varun's safe-space.

Points Table

	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	8	5	3	10	0.939
Gujarat Titans	7	5	2	10	0.580
Chennai Super Kings	8	5	3	10	0.376
Lucknow Super Giants	7	4	3	8	0.547
Royal Challengers Bangalore	8	4	4	8	-0.139
Punjab Kings	7	4	3	8	-0.162
Kolkata Knight Riders	8	3	5	6	-0.027
Mumbai Indians	7	3	4	6	-0.620
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	2	5	4	-0.725
Delhi Capitals	7	2	5	4	-0.961

After the RR-CSK match on April 27

INBRIEF

Priyanshu and Rahul bring gold and silver in 1500m

Priyanshu won the boys 1500m gold (3:57.37s) while fellow-Indian Rahul took the silver (3:59.43) in the fifth Asian youth athletics championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on Thursday. India also won two bronze medals, through Arati (girls 5km walk, 24:29.14s) and Mubassina Mohammed (long jump, 5.90m).

Nepomniachtchi and Ding play out a draw in 13th game

The 13th game of the World chess championship between Ian Nepomniachtchi and Ding Liren ended in a draw. With just one game remaining, the score is 6.5-6.5. Whoever wins that game on Saturday will be crowned champion.

IWL: Odisha shoots six past hapless CRPF FC

Odisha FC registered a resounding 6-0 win over CRPF FC in its opening match of the Indian Women's League in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

The results: Odisha FC 6 (Dangmei Grace, Cynthia Marcondes, Faustina Worwornyo Akpo, Serto Lynda, Bala Devi, Jasod Munda) bt CRPF FC 0; Lords FA 4 (Arya More, Dipika, Sasmita Behera, Akanksha Kandalkar) bt Celtic Queens FC 0; Eastern SU 1 (Moirangthem Mandakini Devi) bt Kickstart FC 0.

BCCI bumps up Richa and Jemimah's contracts

Wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh (*in pic*) and Jemimah Rodrigues have been elevated to B category in BCCI's central contracts for 2022-23.

The list: Category A: Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandha and Deepti Sharma; **B:** Renuka Thakur, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Richa Ghosh, Rajeshwari Gayakwad; **C:** Meghna Singh, Devika Vaidya, S. Meghana, Anjali Sarvani, Pooja Vastrakar, Sneh Rana, Radha Yadav, Harleen Deol and Yastika Bhatia.

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka vs Ireland: 2nd Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.45 a.m.

FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.

World Chess championship: FIDE & *Chess.com YouTube* channels, 2.30 p.m. onwards

ATP Madrid Open: Sony LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards

Badminton: Asia Championships, Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 & LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10 p.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Bitter war of words between wrestlers, IOA officials

IOA chief P.T. Usha and joint secretary Kalyan Choubey claim protests tarnish country's image; wrestlers retort with 'does it improve when athletes are harassed'

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Staying fit: Wrestlers Vinesh and Sakshi exercise near Jantar Mantar during their protest in New Delhi, on Thursday. PTI

The battle between wrestlers and sports officials keeps getting worse. On Thursday, even as the Indian Olympic Association formed a three-member committee to run the wrestling affairs and conduct elections, its officials were slammed for being insensitive and shielding the accused, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The IOA in its executive committee meeting named Wushu Association president Bhupender Singh Bajwa and shooting coach Suma Shirur, along with a retired High Court judge, in the ad-hoc committee. But president P.T. Usha and joint secretary Kalyan Choubey's comments that the wrestlers were tarnishing the country's image has riled the protesters.

"The IOA has an athlete's commission in place and instead of hitting the streets, these wrestlers should've come to us. The athletes should be disciplined. If their problems are real, they should've come to us earlier. If they were not satisfied, then they could've gone anywhere," Usha said, inviting strong words from Bajrang Punia.

"I feel sad since she is herself a woman and this is a case of sexual harassment. We were quiet for three months but instead of taking any action, we are being called liars. What will athletes do if they don't get justice? Some time back, Usha had complained that people were destroying her academy and cried for help. If she as an MP and IOA president can go through that, we are ordinary athletes with no political power. Can she not understand what can happen to us," Bajrang Punia questioned.

Indisciplined?

Asked about being called indisciplined, Bajrang retorted, "You gave us assurances and we left last time. What happened? The federation held championships in his backyard. Suspended people were conducting medal ceremonies.

"You started saying through sources that nothing was found. I am saying 12-13 women gave statements to the Oversight Committee. Radhika Sreeman (member of the committee) has commented that only one woman spoke of sexual harassment but is that not enough? Is it only about numbers?"

AIFF president Choubey claimed that such actions tarnished the image of the country. "These protests are not good for the image of the country. We are the fifth largest economy in the world and sport is a medium through which you reach all parts of the world-...This protest is spoiling the reputation of India. In this day and age of social media, imagine what this does to the country's image?" Choubey said.

"Does the image of the country grow when athletes are harassed," retorted Vinesh Phogat. "We know this will impact us forever. I cannot even tell you how insensitive and disrespectful the behaviour of committee members was. I personally called her so many times, she never answered.

"For three months we got nothing. Now, when we are protesting they are releasing selective documents and comments. Why didn't she meet us or speak to us even once? The only hope we have is from the court," she declared.

The case is up for hearing in the Supreme Court on Friday.

Bopanna-Ebden pair advances

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Rohan Bopanna, seeded seventh with Matthew Ebden, beat Roberto Bautista Agut and Daniel Evans 6-3, 7-6(4) in the doubles first round of the €8,796,536 ATP tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain on Thursday.

In the ITF women's event in Nottingham, Rutuja Bhosale made the quarterfinals. Qualifier Vaishnavi Adkar also made the quarterfinals in the ITF women's event in Monastir, Tunisia.

The results: **€8,796,536 ATP, Madrid: Doubles: First round**: Rohan Bopanna & Matthew Ebden (Aus) bt Roberto Bautista Agut (Esp) & Daniel Evans (GBR) 6-3, 7-6(4).

€73,000 Challenger, Rome: Pre-quarterfinals: Sumit Nagal bt Fausto Tabacco (Ita) 6-3, 6-0.

$25,000 ITF men, Jakarta: Pre-quarterfinals: Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Koki Matsuda (Jpn) 6-2, 6-3.

Doubles: Quarterfinals: Matthew Romios & Brandon Walkin (Aus) bt Sai Karteek Reddy & Shashank Theertha 6-4, 6-4; Ray Ho (Tpe) & Parikshit Somanni bt Jake Delaney (Aus) & Naoki Tajjima (Jpn) 6-1, 5-7, [10-8].

$100,000 ITF women, Charlottesville, USA: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Jessy Rompies (Ina) & Prarthana Thombare bt Julia Adams (USA) & Melodie Collard (Can) 7-6(3), 6-3.

$40,000 ITF women, Calvi, France: First round: Naiktha Bains (GBR) bt Ankita Raina 7-6(5), 6-4.

Doubles: Quarterfinals: Estelle Cascino (Fra) & Ankita Raina bt Amandine Hesse (Fra) & Llesley Kerkhove (Ned) 7-6(3), 5-7, [10-6].

$25,000 ITF women, Nottingham, Britain: Pre-quarterfinals: Rutuja Bhosale bt Danielle Daley (GBR) 6-1, 6-0.

$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: Pre-quarterfinals: Vaishnavi Adkar bt Melisa Ercan (Tur) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Prannoy in quarters, Srikanth bows out

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

H.S. Prannoy battled his way into the quarterfinals, but it was curtains for compatriot K. Srikanth in the men singles of the Asia Badminton Championships here on Thursday.

Prannoy, seeded eighth, prevailed over Indonesian Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo 16-21, 21-5, 18-21, in an hour and two minutes in a round-of-16 match.

Srikanth was shown the door by fourth-seeded Japanese Kodai Naraoka 14-21, 22-20, 9-21.

The women's doubles duo of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopi Chand pulled out of the tournament due to injury.

Rohan, Sikki advance

In mixed doubles, Rohan Kapoor and N. Sikki Reddy entered the quarterfinals after the fourth seeded Korean pair of Seo Seung Jae and Chae Yu Jung handed the Indians a walkover.

The results:

Men: H.S. Prannoy bt Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo 16-21, 21-5, 18-21; K. Srikanth lost to Kodai Naraoka 14-21, 22-20, 9-21.

Mixed doubles: Rohan Kapoor & N. Sikki Reddy w/o Seo Seung Jae and Chae Yu Jung; B. Sumeeth Reddy & Ashwini Ponnappa lost to Chang Ko-chi & Lee Chih Chen 15-21, 17-21.

Kaur Singh, the Indian who took on Ali, passes away

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Kaur Singh.

Heavyweight boxer Kaur Singh, the lone home boxer to land a gold at the 1982 New Delhi Asian Games and who was also known for his exhibition bout with the legendary Muhammad Ali in 1980, passed away on Thursday. He was 74.

Hailing from Sangrur, Punjab, Kaur, who took up boxing after joining the Indian Army's Sikh Regiment in the early 1970s became Asian champion in 1980.

"Kaur Singh was devoted to boxing. After leaving the Army and joining Punjab Police, he coached its team at the Hyderabad National championships in 2007," Dronacharya B.B. Mohanty, who worked with Kaur, told *The Hindu*.

"Kaur Singh was the first from the Sikh Regiment to receive the Arjuna Award and Padma Shri. He also participated in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics," he said.

Mohanty recalled an incident from the 1982 Asian Games.

"In the presence of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, film star Amitabh Bachchan hung the medal around Kaur Singh's neck. Bachchan was impressed with Kaur Singh, who was a few inches taller than the superstar," said Mohanty.

Former India coach G.S. Sandhu paid tribute to Kaur Singh, "He was unmatched in terms of fitness, endurance and power," said Sandhu.

The BBFI condoled Kaur Singh's passing.

Gurjoat and Ganemat have a bright start

Sports Bureau

SHOTGUN WC

Gurjoat Singh Khangura shot two perfect rounds to be among the leaders with 50 in men's skeet in the shotgun World Cup in Cairo, Egypt, on Thursday.

Anantjeet Singh Naruka shot 24 and 25 to be close to the leaders, while Olympian and World Cup gold medallist Mairaj Ahmad Khan stumbled to a bad start with a round of 19, and recovered with a round of 24.

In women's skeet, Ganemat Sekhon shot 47, the second best score along with 10 others, behind the leader Jiang Yiting (50). Maheshwari Chauhan and Darshna Rathore also did well to shoot 45.

Madushka, Mendis notch up double tons

IRELAND IN SL

Agence France-Presse
GALLE

Nishan Madushka and Kusal Mendis both made double centuries against Ireland on Thursday as Sri Lanka's top four batsmen all hit hundreds for only the third time in Test history.

The hosts declared their first innings on 704 for three after tea on the fourth day of the second Test, 212 runs ahead. Ireland was 54 for two in its second innings.

Madushka converted his maiden Test century into a double hundred (205, 339b, 22x4, 1x6) before being dismissed by Andy McBrine.

Mendis amassed 245 (291b, 18x4, 11x6) and was one short of Wasim Akram's world record of 12 sixes in a Test innings before he was caught at long-off.

Angelo Mathews, dropped on one, posted his 16th Test hundred (100 n.o.).

Rare feat

That gave the hosts their quadruple-centurions entry in the history books, after India against Bangladesh in 2007 and Pakistan against Sri Lanka in 2019.

The scores: Ireland 492 & 54/2 in 22 overs vs Sri Lanka 704/3 decl. in 151 overs (Kusal Mendis 245, Nishan Madhushka 205, Dimuth Karunaratne 115, Angelo Mathews 100 n.o.).

City blows Arsenal's challenge out of the water with a 4-1 romp

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
MANCHESTER

Manchester City struck a hammer blow in the Premier League title race as it outclassed leader Arsenal 4-1 with an electrifying display in a seismic clash of the top two at the Etihad on Wednesday.

Pep Guardiola's relentless side ran riot as it made it 12 successive league wins against Arsenal with a masterful Kevin De Bruyne scoring twice and Erling Haaland also on target as City seized control of their destiny.

City's seventh successive league win left them with 73 points to Arsenal's 75, but crucially they have played two fewer games than the Londoners.

Standout show: De Bruyne sweeps home City's opener after a lung-bursting run through the middle of the park. AP

The results: Premier League: Chelsea 0 lost to Brentford 2 (Azpilicueta 37-og, Mbeumo 78); Manchester City 4 (De Bruyne 7, 54, Stones 45, Haaland 90+5) bt Arsenal 1 (Holding 86); Nottingham Forest 3 (Gross 45-og, Danilo 69, Gibbs-White 90-pen) bt Brighton 1 (Buonanotte 38); West Ham 1 (Paqueta 12) lost to Liverpool 2 (Gakpo 18, Matip 67).

LaLiga: Getafe 1 (Mayoral 71) lost to Almeria 2 (Suarez 7, 58); Atletico Madrid 3 (De Paul 45+2, Morata 47, Carrasco 77) bt Real Mallorca 1 (Nastasic 20); Rayo Vallecano 2 (Alvaro Garcia 19, Fran Garcia 53) bt Barcelona (Lewandowski 83); Celta Vigo 1 (Aidoo 90) bt Elche 0.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Red Devils thrashes Muslim Heroes FC

Red Devils cruised past Muslim Heroes FC 7-0 in the BDFA 'C' division football league here on Thursday.

The results: Reds United FC bt Muslims Heroes FC 7-0; La Masia FC drew with ITC FC 1-1; Indiranagar FC bt Devanahalli FC 3-0; Juno FC bt 515 ABWS FC 9-0.

Young Lions routs DPS (North) in Tiger Cup

Young Lions defeated DPS (North) in the Tiger Cup under-14 cricket tournament here.

The scores: Young Lions 220/8 in 30 overs (M. Rohith 73, Brahmanya 51) bt DPS (North) 108/4 in 30 overs (P. Rithesh 48).

Guru HC hammers Decathlon HC in Travancore Cup hockey

Guru HC whipped Decathlon HC 12-2 in the 92nd Travancore Cup hockey tournament here.

The results: Guru HC 12 (Dharmaveer 11, 13, Ankit 17, 20, 40, Jaswanth 28, Subramanyam 37, 43, 44, Sandeep 50, Moiz 45, 49) bt Decathlon HC 2 (Nikil 24, Roshan Somaiah 29).

Rising Star HC 7 (Vaishnav Kumar 3, Royan Rodrigues 23, 30, Harsha 36, 43, 45, Yogendra 42) bt Blue Star HC 0.

Reserve Bank of India RC reigns supreme

Reserve Bank of India Recreation Club defeated HAL SC in the final to emerge as the KSCA Group II, Division II league champion here.

The scores: Final: Reserve Bank of India Recreation Club 169/5 in 20 overs (Prajwal Pavan 61, B.U. Shivakumar 45, G.S. Chiranjeevi 35 n.o.) bt HAL Sports Club 154/8 in 20 overs (Rahul Prasanna 64, Rithin Christy 26, Rishi Bopanna 4/18).

Pranavi and Avani qualify for Asian Games golf

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Pranavi Urs and amateur Avani Prashanth, who tied for the top place in the second round of the trials at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club, will join Aditi Ashok in the Indian women's team for the Asian Games in China in September this year.

In the men's section, Khalin Joshi completed a wire-to-wire win ahead Olympian S.S.P. Chawrasia and the duo will join Shubhankar Sharma in the men's team.